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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Volume 77, No. 142 ©SS 2018

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018

平成30年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)

発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

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## Caught in the CROSSFIRE

Border deployment puts Mattis, military in middle of political battle

By PAUL SONNE, DAN LAMOTHE AND MISSY RYAN  
*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — The White House's decision to send more than 5,200 active-duty troops to the border with Mexico a week before the midterm elections has put the American military and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis squarely in the political crosshairs regarding one of the nation's most divisive issues.

Defense officials have sought to characterize the operation — believed to be the largest deployment of active-duty troops to the U.S. border in a century — as routine support for the Department of Homeland Security.

But the mission could jeopardize Mattis' effort to shield the military from the political divisions gripping the country as questions persist about the size and timing of the deployment and the use of active-duty troops instead of the National Guard.

SEE CROSSFIRE ON PAGE 7

## US-South Korea alliance strained by suspension of war games

By YOUKYUNG LEE  
*Bloomberg*

The U.S. and South Korea have spent almost seven decades honing their preparedness for war. Now fears are growing among the alliance's proponents that extended peace talks are eroding that advantage.

Defense chiefs from the nations were to gather for an annual meeting in Washington on Wednesday facing a radically changed landscape after President Donald Trump's decision to restart nuclear negotiations with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. While those discussions put off the prospect of a conflict, Trump also has canceled major military exercises to facilitate the detente.

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis and his South Korean counterpart, Jeong Kyeong-doo, now must find a way to maintain a robust defense without providing regular, real-world simulations for troops that tend to rotate through every couple of years. Trump's statements calling the exercises "war games" and echoing Kim by calling them "provocative" makes them harder to restart as long as nuclear talks drag on.

"Without the joint military training, there will be an alliance, but a much weaker one," said Kim Ki-ho, a defense professor at Kyonggi University and a former colonel who oversaw military operation planning at Combined Forces Command. "It's a North Korea strategy to dissolve the alliance."

Even before Trump canceled the so-called Vigilant Ace exercises planned for December, his nominee to lead U.S. Forces Korea acknowledged during Senate confirmation hearings that the freeze had caused a "degradation to the readiness" of forces. "This will be one of my top priorities when I get on the ground," Gen. Robert Abrams told senators Sept. 25.

SEE ALLIANCE ON PAGE 5

**Soldiers from 541st Sapper Company prepare to board an Air Force C-130J Super Hercules on Tuesday at Fort Knox, Ky. Military personnel will provide a range of support for U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel at the U.S.-Mexico border.**

DANIEL A. HERNANDEZ  
*Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force*

# MILITARY

## Sci-Fi writers at convention weigh in on Space Force

By HARRISON SMITH  
The Washington Post

ROCKVILLE, Md. — President Donald Trump is planning to establish U.S. Space Force, but details about the initiative are scant.

Fortunately, science-fiction writers have been pondering such matters for decades. Space forces have been a science-fiction trope since at least 1948, when Robert Heinlein published the young-adult novel "Space Cadet," about a teenager who joins a group called the Interplanetary Patrol.

More recently, "The Expanse" — a book series by James S.A. Corey that has been adapted into a television show on Amazon.com's video streaming service — envisioned conflicts between humans living on Earth, Mars and the asteroid belt.

So a visit to Capclave, the annual convention of the Washington Science Fiction Association, was in order.

The convention in late September involved about 400 mostly gray-haired sci-fi enthusiasts at the Hilton hotel in Rockville, Md. It is one of the oldest of its kind in the country, a stark contrast to Comic-Con, where attendees are more likely to dress in costume. Capclave tends to draw more bookish, serious-minded writers and fans. The convention's motto:

"Where reading is not extinct."

"Science fiction is a rehearsal literature, not a predictive literature. We take ideas and rehearse what they might be like in the future," said Nancy Kress, of Seattle, who has won a Hugo Award, one of science fiction's top honors.

Arthur C. Clarke, who co-wrote "2001: A Space Odyssey" with director Stanley Kubrick, dreamed up communications satellites in a 1945 magazine article. "Star Trek" envisioned the flip phone.

"We don't know what the future holds any more than anybody else," Kress said. "We can, however, see that certain things are coming."

What's coming, said editor and publisher Neil Clarke, is probably not particularly pleasant.

"We've thought of all sorts of terrible scenarios of things we could do to each other from space," he said while signing anthologies of his magazine, *Clarkesworld*.

During a break between panels, writer Suzanne Palmer — a Linux systems administrator at Smith College who recently won a Hugo Award for her story "The Secret Life of Bots" — mused: "The way warfare is going — yeah, you can blow up other people's stuff from space. But the capacity for information hacking is far more damaging. If you take down people's



JONATHAN OLLEY, LUCASFILM/AP

Alden Ehrenreich appears in a scene from "Solo: A Star Wars Story." Science-fiction fans point out that many of their heroes are rogues, like Han Solo, and would be skeptical of a space force.

satellites you reduce their flow of information."

John G. Hemry, a retired lieutenant commander in the Navy who was wearing a Hawaiian-style "Incredibles" shirt, envisions the Space Force evolving into an interstellar armada that functions not unlike a 19th-century navy: long days of cramped, lonely travel in a hostile medium (space, the new water) followed by sudden close-quarters engagements.

In Hemry's "Lost Fleet" series (he writes under the name Jack Campbell), the fighting "ships" are trailed by "fast fleet auxiliaries," mobile factories making weapons and fuel cells that enable them to travel one- or two-tenths the speed of light. Because of their speed, the ships

have "millisecond windows when they're close enough to each other to shoot."

And what do they fire? Particle beams called hell lances as well as missiles and grapeshot: "little metal ball bearings, a great kinetic weapon in space."

There's also always asteroids that can be lobbed at Earth or at colonies on Mars, as when "the Narn home world got completely pummeled," Clarke explained, in the space opera "Babylon 5."

But the Space Force doesn't have to be all about celestial war.

"I hope and expect that there will be settlements on the moon and on Mars," said Edward M. Lerner, a writer, physicist and computer scientist from Winchester, Va. "Space Force would provide police-type services.

If there is no law enforcement, there is no law."

For science-fiction buffs, perhaps the biggest downside of Trump's Space Force is the fact that the idea is coming from the government in the first place.

"If you ask science-fiction fans what Space Force is going to do, they'll tell you it's going to get in our way," said Ernest Lilley, a former tech journalist who biked to the hotel from Alexandria.

"Science-fiction readers have something of a libertarian streak, he said." They prefer plucky individuals who battle evil empires, fight aliens or explore new worlds without government interference or military oversight.

"Han Solo (hero in the "Star Wars" movies) would not have joined Space Force," he said.

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# MILITARY



THEON GOROBLO/Stars and Stripes

Col. Patrick Costello, center, unfurls the newly reformed 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's colors during a reactivation ceremony Wednesday at Camp Zama, Japan.

## Army reactivates air defense artillery brigade near Tokyo

BY LEON COOK  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — The Army has reactivated a brigade to oversee missile defense units on mainland Japan, Okinawa and Guam.

The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade was reactivated in a brief ceremony Wednesday at Camp Zama, headquarters of U.S. Army Japan in Kanagawa prefecture near Tokyo.

The brigade, based at Sagami General Depot, about 25 miles west of the Japanese capital, will oversee the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Regiment at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, as well as the 10th and 14th Missile Defense Batteries on mainland Japan and a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, battery on Guam.

The unit, which will include about 115 personnel at full strength, is purely a headquarters unit, said U.S. Army Japan spokesman Kevin Krejcarek.

"It's just personnel. There won't be any missile batteries at Sagami," he told Stars and Stripes ahead of Wednesday's ceremony as protesters gathered outside Camp Zama's main gate.

The move toward greater oversight of the region's air and missile defense units comes more than a year after North Korea test launches sent missiles through Japanese airspace.

Since the latest North Korean missile test in November 2017, relations between the two Koreas have reached an unprecedented détente, with an agreement to remove minefields and dismantle 22 out-

posts along the Korean Demilitarized Zone by the end of November.

Conversely, China's "attempts to change the status quo [in the Asia-Pacific] by coercion," according to Japan's 2018 Defense White Paper, are of grave concern to Japan's Defense Ministry.

However, Krejcarek said the unit's activation wasn't in response to North Korean or Chinese actions.

"This activation isn't a response to any outside event," he said.

Jiji Press reported Monday that Japan's Defense Ministry had notified Sagami Air Base, which surrounds Sagami Depot, of the planned stationing. Local government officials quoted by the agency complained about the suddenness of the move and lack of consultation.

"It's questionable that such a command will be set up at the Sagami General Depot, which is in charge of logistics for the U.S. Army," the official said, according to Jiji.

The command will promote "quick reaction capability" and help strengthen the deterrent power and coping abilities of the Japan-U.S. alliance, a Defense Ministry official said, according to the agency.

It may work with maritime missile defense systems and Japan Self-Defense Forces units that will operate the Aegis Ashore land-based missile defense system, Jiji reported.

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## Air Force probe: Pilot error led to Iraq helo crash

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An experienced pilot misinterpreted navigation displays on the Air Force HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter he was flying over western Iraq before it struck a cable and crashed, killing all seven servicemembers aboard, an investigation into the March crash found.

The pilot overshoot the targeted landing zone, flying the helicopter into an unplanned location near the city of Qaim, where it struck the nearly half-inch-thick galvanized steel cable strung between a pair of 341-foot-tall towers, rendering the helicopter unflyable, according to an investigation into the March 15 crash released Monday by the Air Force. The wreck of the search and rescue helicopter marked the single deadliest event for American troops in Iraq or Syria since the United States launched its fight against Islamic State in June 2014.

Killed in the incident were four members of the flight crew and three pararescuemen, according to the Air Force.

The Pave Hawk that crashed was the lead element of a pair of helicopters moving to a landing zone to support a forthcoming ground operation nearby in case search and rescue operations were needed, according to the Air Combat Command investigation report.

Investigators blamed poor flight planning and unusual low-light conditions that made the steel cable impossible for the flight crew to see through their night-vision goggles.

But the primary issue was the pilot's apparent misreading of the navigation display in which he turned at the intended landing point and continued flying north, the investigation found. The mis-

interpretation of the display was likely at least partially to blame on unnecessary GPS checkpoints appearing along the route beyond the intended landing zone, due to poor flight planning, the report said.

"Had the route terminated at the intended [helicopter landing zone], it is unlikely the [helicopter] would have flown past the [helicopter landing zone]," the report stated.

The pilot and co-pilot flying the Pave Hawk were experienced helicopter pilots, according to the report. The pilot was a qualified instructor pilot with more than 1,000 total flight hours, including more than 800 in the Pave Hawk. The co-pilot had totaled almost 2,500 flight hours, including more than 500 in the Pave Hawk.

The airman killed in the crash were identified by the Pentagon as: Capt. Mark K. Weber, 29, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Capt. Andreas B. O'Keefe, 37, of Center Moriches, N.Y.; Capt. Christopher T. Zanetis, 37, of Long Island City, N.Y.; Master Sgt. Christopher J. Raguso, 39, of Commack, N.Y.; Staff Sgt. Dashan J. Briggs, 30, of Fort Jefferson Station, N.Y.; Master Sgt. William R. Posch, 36, of Indialantic, Fla.; and, Staff Sgt. Carl P. Enis, 31, of Tallahassee, Fla.

Weber was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; Posch and Enis were assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron, Air Force Reserve, at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., according to the official statement.

The four others killed in the incident were members of the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard.

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## Mattis seeks compromise over combat in Yemen civil war

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis on Tuesday called for an end to the civil war in Yemen and for both sides to begin talks within the next month to end the fighting.

Speaking at the United States Institute of Peace, a government-funded think tank, on the topic of the National Defense Strategy, Mattis said Yemen "has had more problems than any people deserve to carry."

**"We need to be doing this in the next 30 days."**

Jim Mattis  
secretary of defense

"This has got to end. We've got to replace combat with compromise," Mattis told the gathering.

The civil war in Yemen, which started in 2014, has killed an es-

timated 16,200 civilians since 2015, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, another Washington think tank. More than 22 million people are estimated to need assistance.

U.S. forces have provided support for Saudi Arabia and the Yemen government in their fight against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in the civil war.

The U.S. forces have assisted in coordinating, refueling and providing target guidance and intelligence to the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

The Saudi airstrikes in Yemen are under international scrutiny for killing civilians, including an airstrike in August that hit a bus and killed 51 people, according to CNN.

Mattis said he wants Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Iran-backed Houthis to go to Sweden in November to discuss solutions to the conflict, including demilitarizing the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and setting conditions for a government in Yemen that will give local autonomy to the Houthis.

The defense secretary blamed Iran for exacerbating the conflict, including its supply of missiles to the Houthis, which he wants moved and monitored.

"So we've got to move toward a peace effort here and we can't say we're going to do it sometime in the future," Mattis said. "We need to be doing this in the next 30 days."

He said he believes the Saudis and Emiratis are ready to negotiate.

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## WAR/MILITARY

# Former airman arrested in NM after 'spambot' found on supervisor's phone

By WILLIAM HOWARD  
Stars and Stripes

A former airman accused of tampering with his supervisor's phone faces up to 10 years in federal prison for computer fraud.

Michael Weber, 22, who served with the 27th Special Operations Communications Squadron at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., was arrested Tuesday morning by FBI agents in Alamogordo, N.M., and made his initial federal court appearance that afternoon.

in Albuquerque.

Weber is accused of placing a "spambot" onto a government-issued cellphone assigned to his supervisor at the air base on Jan. 16, according to officials. Spambots are computer programs designed to build mailing lists for sending unsolicited emails. They can gather email addresses from websites, newsgroups, special-interest group postings and chat room conversations.

The spambot Weber is accused

of installing caused the cellphone to receive a long string of messages that damaged the phone.

Weber will remain in federal custody pending a preliminary hearing and a detention hearing scheduled for Wednesday, officials said.

The penalty for a conviction on the computer fraud offense is a maximum of 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

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# Afghan army helo crashes, killing 25

By AMIR SHAH  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan army helicopter crashed Wednesday in bad weather in the western Farah province, killing all 25 people on board, including the deputy corps commander of the western zone, a provincial spokesman said.

Mohammad Naser Mehri, spokesman for the Farah governor, said the helicopter crashed around 9:10 a.m., shortly after taking off from the mountainous Anar Dara district heading toward the nearby Herat province.

On board were the corps commander, Gen. Naimudullah Khalil, and two members of the Farah provincial council — its chairman, Farid Bakhtawar, and Jamila Amini, one of only two women on the nine-member council.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi claimed insurgents had downed the helicopter but failed to provide evidence. Defense Ministry spokesman Ghafor Ahmad Jawed rejected the Tal-

iban claim of responsibility as "totally wrong."

Wednesday's was the second army helicopter crash in as many months in Farah. In September, five crewmembers died when their helicopter crashed. Investigators blamed the crash on a technical failure, without elaborating.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a suicide bomber struck outside the country's largest prison on the edge of the capital, Kabul, killing seven people, including prison workers and security personnel, said Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish. The attacker targeted a bus carrying prison workers, he said. The sprawling Pul-e-Charkh prison houses hundreds of inmates, including scores of Taliban insurgents.

Abdullah Karimi, a prison official, said the attack occurred near the prison gate where visitors were waiting to pass a rigorous security check before entering. The SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors militant websites, said the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan claimed responsibility for the suicide attack.

# Human rights group documents 1,400 attacks on civilians in Syria by Russians in 3 years

Associated Press

BEIRUT — A Syrian-led human rights group said Wednesday it has documented more than 1,400 incidents in which Russian forces indiscriminately targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure in the three years since Moscow intervened in the civil war.

The Berlin-based Syrian Archive has created a searchable database of more than 3,000 verified videos of the incidents, reported between September 2015,

when Russia began airstrikes on behalf of Bashar Assad's forces, and September 2018.

Hadi al-Khatib, of the Syrian Archive, said the database is the first visual documentation of alleged Russian airstrikes in Syria and is essential for "advancing justice." He said the database can help lawyers build cases against perpetrators of violence.

The database includes videos from citizens, journalists, humanitarian groups and even the Russian Defense Ministry.

Russia denies targeting civilians and has often said the airstrikes are aimed at "terrorist infrastructure." In a recent report on its three-year involvement in Syria, the Russian military lists the number of airstrikes and the types of aircraft and weapons used but doesn't say anything about casualties.

Syrian Archive said it has documented and verified at least 704 incidents in which there were civilian casualties as a result of alleged Russian attacks.

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# PACIFIC

## Alliance: Despite halt in war games, US, S. Korea insist bonds are 'ironclad'

### FROM FRONT PAGE

The drills are just one of several challenges to the alliance under Trump's "America First" policies. He has threatened to withdraw from their two-way trade deal, pressured South Korea to halt oil imports from Iran and tussled with President Moon Jae-in over whether to ease the United States' "maximum pressure" campaign against Kim.

Trump has more openly questioned the value of keeping roughly 28,500 American troops on the Korean Peninsula than any president since Jimmy Carter, saying after meeting with Kim in June that he would "like to bring them back home, but that's not part of the equation right now." The administration is pushing South Korea to increase the more than \$800 million it pays for the U.S. presence, with the Yonhap News Agency reporting Trump wants Seoul to offset the cost of bombers and aircraft carriers based elsewhere.

Although Trump is pushing to arrange a second summit with Kim early next year, working-level negotiations between America's nuclear envoy and his North Korean counterpart haven't yet started. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will probably meet with top North Korean official Kim Yong Chol next week in New York, Yonhap reported Tuesday.

Mattis and Jeong also were expected to discuss the issue of which side would retain supreme command in the event of a war, a responsibility that has thus far been maintained by the U.S. Seoul has been pushing for greater control, something that could raise political questions in Washington.



STEVEN HITCHCOCK/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**U.S. troops set up a support by fire line alongside South Korean soldiers during joint training on Rodriguez Live Fire Range, near the Demilitarized Zone, in 2015.**

Officials on both sides insist the alliance remains "ironclad" and say the troops can maintain readiness, at least in the short term, through smaller scale exercises less likely to provoke Kim. Lt. Col. David Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesman, said daily interactions between the two forces demonstrate "not only a strong alliance, but a level of interoperability that's second-to-none."

Still, the mass military drills provide troops who speak different languages a

rare opportunity to practice the complex maneuvers required in wartime. In the Vigilant Ace exercise, for instance, both air forces had been expected to practice some 700 rapid airstrikes on enemy territory after receiving warning of an imminent attack.

Former commanders said the joint exercises were essential to mounting a safe and effective response and blanch at Trump's criticism of them as "provocative" and "tremendously expensive." Moreover, sus-

**'It is useless for the South Korean military to train on its own.'**

**Shin Wonsik**

retired general who served as the South Korean military's chief operational strategist

pending the drills means giving up some of the most valuable bargaining chips the allies have in negotiations with North Korea.

"I was stunned," said Shin Wonsik, a retired general who served as the South Korean military's chief operational strategist. "It was a groundless remark."

North Korea has for decades objected to the exercises, portraying them as a rehearsal for an invasion to topple the Kim regime. Last December, when hundreds of aircraft, including two dozen stealth jets, flew over the peninsula, North Korean state media accused the allies of bringing the region "to the brink of nuclear war."

The next question is the fate of next year's Key Resolve and Foal Eagle exercises, in which allied forces practice war scenarios both through computer simulations and in the field. The spring training has in the past included rehearsing the assassination of the North Korean leader.

"It is useless for the South Korean military to train on its own," Shin said. "Not doing training means that the South Korean military's defense readiness is becoming terribly low."



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## MILITARY

## Migrants rest, hope for transport to Mexico City

Associated Press

JUCHITAN, Mexico — Thousands of Central American migrants in a caravan that has already advanced 250 miles into Mexico hope they won't have to walk anymore, at least for a while.

Red Cross personnel on Wednesday bandaged the swollen feet of Honduran farmer Omar Lopez in the southern city of Juchitan, where the caravan was paused for the day. He had been pounding the hot asphalt of highways every day for the last two weeks after spending nights on concrete sidewalks with just a thin sheet of plastic for cover, and that had taken its toll.

"We are waiting to see if they are going to help us out with buses, to continue the trip," said Lopez, 27.

Organizers say the buses, if they do materialize, would take the estimated 4,000 migrants to Mexico City for meetings with legislators, not to the still-distant U.S. border, though some would probably continue to the border after reaching the capital.

That might not play well with U.S. officials: White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Wednesday specifically praised Mexico for stopping the

migrants from getting rides.

"Mexico has stepped up in an unprecedented way," Sanders told Fox News. "They have helped stop a lot of the transportation means of these individuals in these caravans, forcing them walking. They have helped us in new ways to slow this down, to break this up and keep it from moving as aggressively toward the United States."

The Mexican government, has, in fact, taken a fairly contradictory stance on helping or hindering the first caravan, reflecting the country's balancing act: Officials don't want to irk Trump, but Mexicans have long suffered mistreatment as migrants.

For the first week of the caravan, Mexican federal police sometimes enforced obscure safety rules, forcing migrants off paid mini-buses. They also stopped some overloaded pickup trucks carrying migrants and forced them to get off. But in recent days, officials from Mexico's immigrant-protection agency have organized rides for straggling women and children.

The caravan planned to take a day of rest Wednesday in Juchitan, which is 900 miles from the nearest U.S. border crossing. A second, smaller group was trailing some 250 miles back.

## Pentagon: 39 units deploying troops to US-Mexico border

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has notified some 7,000 active-duty servicemembers that they could be sent to support its new operation along the U.S.-Mexico border as the military prepares to expand the mission beyond the initial 5,200 troops set to deploy by the weekend, officials said Wednesday.

Nearly 2,000 troops had been placed on prepare-to-deploy orders by Wednesday, a defense official said on the condition of anonymity. Air Force Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, head of U.S. Northern Command, said Tuesday that the mission, dubbed Operation Faithful Patriot, would grow in the coming days.

The Pentagon has called up 39 military units and teams with engineering, logistics, aviation, medical, military police and public affairs capabilities primarily from the Army, according to documents obtained Wednesday by Stars and Stripes. Those units include five combat engineer companies, aviators from the 3rd

For a list of units deploying to the U.S.-Mexico border, go to [starsandstripes.com](https://starsandstripes.com)



Infantry Division and the 82nd Airborne Division, military police officers from Fort Hood and Joint Base San Antonio in Texas, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, and Fort Riley in Kansas, and logistics units from the 4th Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne Division. The units do not include any ground combat units, though O'Shaughnessy said troops would be armed and authorized to use force to defend themselves.

The latest deployment of active-duty troops joins about 2,100 National Guardsmen who have been assigned to the border region since April to aid Customs and Border Protection agents, primarily with support duties such as vehicle maintenance, military officials have said.

The Pentagon has identified 13 bases in California, Arizona and Texas to support the border operations, according to the documents. Those bases are designed to serve as "logistics hubs," according to the documents. In Texas,

the bases are the Army's Fort Bliss, Lackland Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Naval Operations Support Center Harlingen and Naval Air Station Kingsville. In Arizona, they are Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the Army's Fort Huachuca. In California, the bases identified are Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton, Naval Air Facility El Centro, Naval Base Coronado, Naval Base San Diego and Naval Base Point Loma.

The troops' mission will be limited in capacity to supporting CBP agents to "harden the southern border," O'Shaughnessy said. They are not expected to come into contact with migrants or conduct civilian law enforcement activity, an act from which they are barred by federal law.

Nonetheless, President Donald Trump on Wednesday tweeted that the military would be at the border to stop a loosely organized group of migrants, known as a caravan, making their way toward the U.S. largely by foot.

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# MILITARY

## Crossfire: Mattis continues balancing act at Pentagon

### FROM FRONT PAGE

In his nearly two years as defense secretary, Mattis has sought to protect the military from the sort of politicization that has rattled the FBI and the CIA since President Donald Trump took office.

The Pentagon says the large-scale deployment is necessary to harden points of entry and deter a caravan of an estimated 3,000 to 7,000 Central American migrants that is about 900 miles south of the border and making its way northward.

Representatives for Mattis did not respond to requests for comment, but other officials have rejected the notion that the scale and timing of the deployment has political motives and say a high-profile, rapid rollout could serve as a deterrent.

"We've got to be prepared for the potential arrival of a very large group," Kevin McAleenan, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said at a news conference Monday. "Because of the size we want to be able to handle it effectively and safely."

Critics say the decision to deploy roughly the same number of U.S. troops serving in Iraq to the border in the days before the midterm elections far exceeds the threat at hand. The caravan is three to four weeks away from arriving, the critics note, and the deployment helps Trump draw attention on an issue ahead of the Nov. 6 vote that could energize his base.

Pentagon documents obtained by The Washington Post indicate that the military specifically wants to highlight the deployment in part to "deter or dissuade the caravan" from continuing toward the U.S.

"This is a craven political stunt by President Trump ahead of the U.S. midterm elections, and a cynical capitulation by a secretary of defense who has prided himself on improving the readiness, focus, and lethality of the U.S. armed forces and who was once known as a no-nonsense warfighter," Kelly Magsamen, a former top Pentagon official in the Obama administration and now a vice president at the liberal Center for American Progress, wrote in an op-ed for Defense One.

Mattis has said little in public about the deployment, other than to confirm during a news conference Sunday in the Czech Republic that the troops would conform with all U.S. laws while serving on the border. Because U.S. law prohibits the military from domestic policing duties, the troops will be limited to helping CPB officers do their jobs.

Earlier on Sunday, Mattis described the mission as "defense support for civilian authorities" and said whatever Border Patrol needed would get there, but he didn't go into detail about the rationale for the threat.

He didn't discuss the deployment at an appearance in Wash-

ington at the U.S. Institute of Peace on Tuesday.

Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, commander of U.S. Northern Command, which is overseeing the operation, said Tuesday at the Pentagon that additional forces could follow the 5,239 troops being sent to the border. He said 2,092 National Guard forces are already broadly assigned to the mission there, operating under an April order from Trump. Texas will receive the active-duty forces first, O'Shaughnessy said, and will have about 1,800 in place within days.

The Air Force general said CBP personnel will be the primary officials dealing with migrants but that U.S. servicemen deployed to support them would be properly trained in case of any incidental interaction.

Some of the active-duty droops heading to the border will deploy with weapons, O'Shaughnessy said a day earlier. According to the internal Pentagon documents reviewed by The Washington Post, active-duty personnel can use force to protect themselves or others around them.

The Marine Corps will deploy military police and a special-purpose task force headquarters as part of the U.S. military's mission, while the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division will deploy helicopters, according to the documents. Troops will deploy with a mixture of lethal and nonlethal weapons, and are authorized to use deadly force in defense of "all persons, foreign or domestic, who are faced with imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm, and where lesser means have failed or cannot be reasonably employed."

The military operation, dubbed Faithful Patriot, is designed to help the CBP "impede or deny legal crossings, maintain situational awareness and apply the appropriate law enforcement response," according to the documents.

While the mission is due to conclude on Dec. 15, one document suggested the active-duty presence could be curtailed "once the migrant caravan has reached a capacity that CBP can process" on its own.

Among the activities the troops are expected to tackle are constructing barriers and fencing, using helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft to move CBP personnel, and dispensing medical care. The government also has asked the Pentagon to provide command and control facilities, temporary housing for CBP personnel, and riot gear for 500 CBP employees. Military medical teams will be primarily tasked with treating government personnel and are not expected to take part in "medical screening" of migrants. "No DOD civilian or military personnel are involved in the transportation, lodging, care or administration of migrants," one document said.

The troops are operating in a support role for CBP because a law known as the Posse Comita-



Members of the 89th Military Police Brigade get ready to board a C-130J Super Hercules from Little Rock, Ark., at Fort Knox, Ky., in support of Operation Faithful Patriot on Monday.

Zoe M. WICKENBURG, COURTESY OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE/AP

tus Act generally prohibits the U.S. military from direct participation in law enforcement.

Jason Dempsey, a former Army officer who serves as an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, said the deployment raised questions about how Mattis was balancing his goal of making the U.S. military a more lethal, focused organization with pressure to get involved in the president's political priorities.

The balancing act has been a strain for Mattis since his first week at the Pentagon, when Trump signed his controversial travel ban in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes alongside Mattis, who like other military leaders, received little warning about Trump's plans.

The use of active-duty forces enables a faster mobilization and is likely to be cheaper than calling up members of the National Guard, because additional pay and benefits are required when the Pentagon activates forces from the Guard and reserves.

A two-year deployment of up to 6,000 guard troops to the border during President George W. Bush's administration cost about \$1.2 billion. The Obama administration spent about \$110 million over one year to deploy up to 1,200 to the border, according to the Government Accountability Office. O'Shaughnessy said Tuesday that he couldn't give a cost figure for the current deployment.

But the decision to use active-duty forces also threatens to pull troops away from training activities and preparation for overseas deployments, and could further stretch a force that military leaders for years have complained is beleaguered by excessive deployments.

The Pentagon is aware of the risks a deployment within the United States poses to the military's public reputation if something goes awry. Mattis, a retired Marine Corps general, was on active duty in 1997 when a U.S. Marine deployed to the border on an anti-drug mission shot and killed an American teenager tending to his herd of goats.

Charles Dunlap, a retired Air Force major general and law professor at Duke University, said the use of the regular armed forces within the United States for politically charged goals is seldom

desired by the military itself.

"In an era when the vitality of our armed forces depends upon the best and brightest volunteering, it's hard to overstate how important it is for the military to maintain the strong public support and admiration it currently enjoys," Dunlap said in an email.

"Involvement in controversial domestic matters inevitably risks alienating at least part of the citizenry."

Dunlap said there are times when regular troops are the best option on short notice, and they

can offer professionalism at tumultuous times, citing President Dwight D. Eisenhower's decision to order elements of the 101st Airborne Division to help desegregate Little Rock schools in 1957.

"If we are faced with a concentration of thousands of people unlawfully crossing the border, having the military provide the rear-echelon support and logistics so as to free law enforcement professionals to keep public order in the front line, so to speak, may be the best or even only near-term option," Dunlap said.

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## EUROPE

# 'It's a beautiful country to operate in'

## Marines in Norway for NATO war games encounter freezing rain, 'heavenly' hot dog sauce

By MARTIN EGNASH  
*Stars and Stripes*

RENNEBU, Norway — A deployment to Norway to fight a mock enemy, followed by scarfing down Scandinavian hot dogs? Awesome. But did it have to happen right when Red Dead Redemption II came out?

That is a question young Marines are asking themselves this week.

More than 11,000 Marines are in Norway to participate in NATO's massive Exercise Trident Juncture, in which they are preparing to battle a fictional adversary who has invaded the country.

Some of the Marines said they are motivated to be part of the exercise in the scenic country, and especially to fight the battle in the next few days. They just wished it could have waited for the release of Red Dead Redemption II, a much-hyped, Wild West-themed video game.

"I wanted to preorder it, but I knew I was coming out here so I didn't," Cpl. Tyler Lohr, an ambulance driver, told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday. "And I have buddies messaging me about how awesome it is. A bunch of us want to play it when we get back."

However, missing the game release is a small price to pay to be part of such a giant exercise, Lohr said.

During an amphibious landing on Monday, the Marines stormed the beach near the town of Alvund with Amphibious Assault Vehicles and LAV-25s, clearing the landing area for their hovercraft to ferry in more troops and equipment.

Trident Juncture is designed to practice deploying a large allied force forward quickly in response to any foreign military intervention against a NATO member state. The exercise, which incorporates 50,000 personnel, 65 warships and 250 aircraft, is the largest NATO war game since the end of the Cold War. All 29 allied nations are participating, along with nonmembers Sweden and Finland.

"Being here and being part of this exercise is a huge deal for all of us Marines," Lohr said. "I'm really excited to be here."

Since the landing, the Marines have been establishing positions along the fjords and mountains of western Norway and preparing for the upcoming battle simulation.

In between the usual troop movements, the Marines are bonding with their Norwegian allies over food and cold weather training tactics.

"The relationship with us and the Norwegians is like really close. It's like we're already friends," Lohr said. "When we first got here, they already had the hot dog and burger stand set up for us. Their burgers are some of the best I've ever had."

"And the hot dogs ... they're like ours, but the hot dog sauce is what changes it. I don't know what it is, but it's like heaven."

Lohr and his fellow Marines said the sauce looks like ranch dressing, "but it's so much better than that." Once they first tasted it, the Marines started lining up every day to put it on everything from burgers to Meals, Ready to Eat.

Capt. Joseph Koffman, the camp commandant for the Rennebu-based Camp Leatherneck, which the Norwegians nicknamed "Camp Odin," said the cold weather in Norway hasn't been too much of an issue due to their extra warming layers and tips from Norwegian soldiers.

"The cold weather is different than Camp Lejeune, but we have cold weather gear, and have gone through cold weather training with the Marines and the Norwegians, who have been helping us deal with the elements," Koffman said. "Some of the Marines who are from the South, aren't as used to it, but me, personally, I'm from Wisconsin, and this is my element. I love the weather here, and it's a beautiful country to operate in."

The Marines plan to begin the mock assault on the city of Oppdal on Thursday.

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PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

Lance Cpl. Blake Bailey stands atop an LAV-25 at Exercise Trident Juncture, near Rennebu, Norway, on Wednesday.



Clockwise from top left: Marines bring MREs into a tent. A Marine and Norwegian Army camp has been nicknamed "Camp Odin." Norwegian hotdog sauce is a popular condiment. Marines play cards while wearing warming layers during chow.

NATION

# Cruz, O'Rourke both see Texas as receptive

By WILL WEISSERT  
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Texas — If Texas is changing under his feet, Ted Cruz doesn't see it.

The Republican senator, locked in a closer than expected re-election battle, insists he's not worried about America's largest, reliably red state slowly turning blue. That's despite a booming Hispanic population and top firms bringing thousands of employees from more liberal locales.

Cruz, who built a career as a Capitol Hill tea party member and fierce Donald Trump foe, now staunchly defends the accomplishments of the Republican-controlled Congress and White House. He says there's a "commonsense" supermajority of conservatives backing him and that his opponent Beto O'Rourke, a rising Democratic star, is too liberal even for Texas independents and moderate Democrats.

"We are going to win this election and I'll tell you how I know, because this is Texas," Cruz told supporters who gathered for a recent rally in an American and Texas flag-draped atrium of a furniture store in the suburban Houston community of Richmond. "As in Texas, it is in our DNA to defend liberty."

O'Rourke counters that he's going to win for many of the same reasons. Even though Texas hasn't elected a Democrat to state-



AMANDA VOISARD, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

**Crowds gather to support Beto O'Rourke, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas, as he speaks last week at an Austin event.**

wide office since 1994, he says it already has embraced new values that it's willing to fight for such as impeaching Trump, decriminalizing marijuana, combating global warming and implementing universal health care.

O'Rourke even has suggested the state can become a model for gun control and relaxed immigration policies.

"This state, this people, can be the ones to lead the way," O'Rourke said after climbing a stepladder with a megaphone to address a crowd outside an Austin middle school last week. "Everything that we care about in this country is on the line."

Next week's election may prove who is right. But how each side is framing the argument provides insight into just how far their race has come.

Polls that this summer showed O'Rourke climbing to within a few points of Cruz now suggest the senator is maintaining a modest lead. Cruz insists that's no accident.

"What has really changed in this race that's been important is the silent majority in Texas, the commonsense conservatives, have become engaged," Cruz told The Associated Press after the Richmond event. He also says he's wooed Democrats who see the



CHELSEA PURGANN, TYLER (TEXAS) MORNING TELEGRAPH/AP

**Sen. Ted Cruz, O'Rourke's Republican opponent, speaks during a campaign stop at Sharon Shiner's Center in Tyler, Texas, last week.**

positions of O'Rourke and other top liberals as too extreme. "For a whole lot of conservative and moderate Democrats in Texas, they feel like they don't have a home in that national party anymore and we are welcoming them with open arms," he said.

On paper, the race was never supposed to be even close.

A three-term congressman and onetime punk rocker, O'Rourke was virtually unknown outside his hometown of El Paso before challenging Cruz.

"The charismatic candidate's calls for bipartisan optimism and willingness to visit all 254 Texas counties made him the

toast of national liberal circles. It also sparked speculation that O'Rourke could use an upset of Cruz, or even a close loss, to run for president in 2020.

Cruz says there are more Republicans than Democrats in Texas, so if he can avoid conservative complacency he'll win easily.

Still, according to U.S. Census estimates, Texas leads the nation in population growth, adding more than 3 million residents since 2010 alone. Hispanics, who tend to favor Democrats, are driving that boom.

## Biden laments current political tone, offers possible 2020 preview

Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Former Vice President Joe Biden bemoaned the tone of Trump-era politics at a campaign stop in Iowa on Tuesday, previewing on his first trip to the leadoff caucus state how he might take on the Republican president should he seek the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

"It's our leaders who need to set the tone and dial down the temperature and restore some dignity to our national dialogue," Biden said in Cedar Rapids while stumping for Iowa's Democratic gubernatorial candidate and a House candidate.

Biden was on a trip across the Midwest campaigning for Democrats in states that President Donald Trump carried in 2016. But the Iowa stop had special significance as Biden weighs a third bid for the presidency. Other rising national Democrats eyeing 2020 have visited the early testing ground in recent weeks.

Biden attacked Trump's moral leadership, indirectly charging him with accommodating intolerance as president.

"Three times this week the forces of hate have terrorized our fellow Americans for their political beliefs, the color of their skin or their religion," Biden noted.



STEVE APPS, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL/AP

**Former Vice President Joe Biden campaigned for Democrats on Tuesday in Wisconsin and Iowa.**

"What the hell is happening to us?" Biden thundered. "Our children are listening!"

Josh Murphy, a Cedar Rapids teacher, said he hoped Biden runs. Biden says he'll decide by early next year.

Biden began the day in Wisconsin campaigning for Sen. Tammy Baldwin and gubernatorial candidate Tony Evers.

## A guilty Hunter could still serve

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Less than a month after he battles for re-election Tuesday, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., is expected in a courtroom to face felony charges that he misused campaign contributions.

The congressman pleaded not guilty in August and refused to take himself out of the race, saying the federal indictment alleging fraud and conspiracy was politically motivated.

If Hunter wins re-election and is subsequently convicted, there is no constitutional provision or House rule that explicitly requires him to lose his seat, even if he is imprisoned and unable to vote on behalf of his district. Whether he would be pressured to resign could largely depend on which party comes out on top in congressional elections.

"You can be found guilty

and still serve," said Loyola Law School professor Jessica Levinson.

Hunter is leading Democrat Ammar Campa-Najjar in the historically Republican 50th Congressional District despite the fact nearly 4 in 10 likely voters believe the five-term incumbent is definitely or probably guilty, according to a poll released in late September by Monmouth University. Hunter and his wife, Margaret, who has also pleaded not guilty in the case, are scheduled to go to court Dec. 3 for a status hearing.

House rules do advise — but do not mandate — that a sitting member sentenced to two or more years in prison step down from committees and refrain from voting.

"No one I know has ever tried to challenge that," said Matt Glassman, of Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute.



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## NATION

# Funerals continue for victims in Pittsburgh

By MARYLCAIRE DALE  
AND ALLEN G. BREED  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Members of Pittsburgh's grief-stricken Jewish community endured another round of funerals Wednesday for victims of the synagogue massacre, a day after President Donald Trump encountered hundreds of protesters when he came to town to pay his respects.

Melvin Wax, 87; Irving Younger, 69; and Joyce Fienberg, 75, were laid to rest as part of a weeklong series of services for the 11 people killed in a shooting rampage at the Tree of Life synagogue Saturday. It was the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history.

"It can't be fixed," Robert Libman said at the funeral of Fienberg, his sister, clutching his chest as he described the pain of losing her. "My sister is dead. My sister was murdered. There was no one I know like her. Pure goodness... She was the most tolerant and gentle person that I've ever known."

Her sons, Anthony, of Paris, and Howard, of Vienna, Va., said she spent five years caring for their father as he battled cancer, then after his death a few years ago, devoted more of her time and energy to Tree of Life.

"My mom would be very angry that her funeral wasn't able to be at Tree of Life, and that her

friends lost Saturday couldn't be here," Howard Fienberg said.

Six people were wounded in the attack, including four police officers, two of whom remained hospitalized with gunshot wounds. Two congregants were still in the hospital, one in critical condition.

In a bit of good news, hospital officials said the two most seriously injured shooting victims are improving.

A police officer and a congregant remain in intensive care but "are doing much better now," Dr. Donald Yealy, chairman of emergency medicine at UPMC, said Wednesday. "I think overall the prognoses are good now. But each of them, in a varying way, will have a different trajectory and likely will require a series of ongoing care."

With Tree of Life still cordoned off as a crime scene, the man arrested in the attack, truck driver Robert Gregory Bowers, 46, remains behind bars, awaiting a hearing Thursday on federal hate crime charges that could bring the death penalty. Authorities said he raged against Jews during the attack.

The first three funerals were held Tuesday, with thousands of mourners jamming a synagogue, a Jewish community center and a third, undisclosed site for the funerals of a beloved family doctor, a pillar of the congregation, and two intellectually disabled brothers



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

**Pallbearers carry the casket of Joyce Fienberg from the Beth Shalom Synagogue following a funeral in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh on Wednesday.**

ers in their 50s who were known as "the boys."

Cecil and David Rosenthal were "beautiful souls" who had "not an ounce of hate in them — something we're terribly missing today," Rabbi Jeffrey Myers,

a survivor of the massacre, said at their funeral at Rodef Shalom, one of the city's oldest and largest synagogues.

The brothers were active at Tree of Life, with Cecil the more gregarious of the two, a man with

a booming voice who was known as the "mayor" of the city's Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

"They were innocent like boys, not hardened like men," the Rosentals' sister, Diane Hirt, told mourners.



MATT ROUKE/AP

**President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump visit a memorial Tuesday outside Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue.**

## Trump's pay tribute at synagogue

By ZEKE MILLER AND JONATHAN LEMIRE  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — One stone and one white rose-bud for each victim.

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump paid homage Tuesday to each of the 11 people slain in the worst instance of anti-Semitic violence in American history.

As the Trumps placed their tributes outside the Tree of Life synagogue, protesters nearby shouted that the president was not welcome.

The emotional, dissonant scene reflected the increasingly divided nation that Trump leads, one

gripped by a week of political violence and hate and hurtling toward contentious midterm elections that could alter the path of a presidency.

On their arrival in Pittsburgh, the Trumps entered the vestibule of the synagogue, where they lit candles for each victim before stepping outside. Shouts of "Words matter!" and "Trump, go home!" could be heard from demonstrators gathered not far from where a gunman had opened fire on Saturday.

Rabbi Jeffrey Myers, who had been conducting services when the shots rang out, gestured at the white Star of David posted for each victim.

At each, the president placed a stone, a Jewish burial tradition, while the first lady added a flower.

## Online rants create dilemma for police

By LISA MARIE PANE  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Their anger is all over social media for the whole world to see, with rants about minorities, relationships gone bad or paranoid delusions about perceived slights.

The perpetrators of mass shootings often provide a treasure trove of insight into their violent tendencies, but the information is not always seen by law enforcement until after the violence is carried out. In addition, rants and hate speech rarely factor into whether someone passes a background check to buy guns.

The massacre at a Pittsburgh synagogue, the pipe bombing attempts from last week and the Florida high school shooting this year have underscored the dilemma of law enforcement around the country in assessing the risk of people making online rants at a time when social media has become so ubiquitous. "We can go out on Twitter and there are loads of people saying insane stuff, but how do you know

which is the one person?" said David Chipman, a retired agent of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and now senior policy adviser for the Giffords Center. "It's always easy after the fact, to go: 'That was clear.' But clearly everyone spouting their mouth doesn't go and shoot up a synagogue."

Robert Gregory Bowers, the man accused of opening fire at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, expressed virulently anti-Semitic views on a social media site called Gab, according to an Associated Press review of an archived version of the posts made under his name. The cover photo for his account featured a neo-Nazi symbol, and his recent posts included a photo of a fiery oven like those used in Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

Other posts referenced false conspiracy theories suggesting the Holocaust was a hoax.

It was only just before the shooting that the poster believed to be Bowers seemed to cross the line, posting "I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going in."



COURTESY OF MUSLIM JEWISH ADVISORY COUNCIL/AP

**Yair Rosenberg, left, and Rabia Chaudry attend an interfaith Iftar in San Francisco. The Anti-Defamation League reported that Rosenberg received the second-most abuse of any Jewish journalist on Twitter during the 2016 campaign. Police face a dilemma in addressing online hate speech.**



# NATION



COURTESY OF FRED LEUCHTER/AP

Fred Leuchter, right, stands near the control panel for the electric chair he built. Leuchter says he is afraid the chair will malfunction at an execution scheduled for Thursday because of later modifications.

## Electric chair builder Tennessee will fail

By TRAVIS LOLLER  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — If Tennessee electrocutes Edmund Zagorski on Thursday, it will be in an electric chair built by a self-taught execution expert who is no longer welcome in the prison system and who worries that his device will malfunction.

Fred Leuchter had a successful career in the execution business before his reputation was tainted by his claim that there were no gas chambers at Auschwitz.

Tennessee's chair, which hasn't been used since 2007, is just one of many execution devices that Leuchter worked on between 1979 and 1990, according to an article by Fordham University professor Deborah Denno in the William and Mary Law Review. In addition to electric chairs, Leuchter built, refurbished and consulted on gas chambers, lethal injection machines and a gallows for at least 27 states.

After his comments about the Holocaust, it came to light that he had neither an engineering degree nor a license, even though he promoted himself as an engineer. His rise and fall was portrayed in a 2000 documentary.

Nonetheless, Leuchter stands behind the electric chair he rebuilt in 1988, relying on skills picked up designing navigational and surveillance equipment and a careful study of documents describing early executions. His concern is that Tennessee's chair will fail because of changes others made to it after he was no longer allowed to service it.

"What I'm worried about now is Tennessee's got an electric chair that's going to hurt someone or cause problems. And it's got my name on it," Leuchter said. "I don't think it's going to be humane."

Cop. Bill Haslam said he is confident the execution can be car-

ried out without problems.

"I have a great deal of confidence in our Department of Correction folks," he said. "... We've spoken with them regularly and they've assured us" the chair is ready.

Tennessee asked Leuchter to refurbish its chair in 1988, when it was facing the possibility of its first execution in decades. "It looked like it was made for a mid-20th century or something," Leuchter said.

So he built a new chair that incorporated wood from the original, which he was told was from the old gallows, and replaced the chair's electrodes. He also replaced the old leather straps that tether prisoners to the chair with quick-release nylon belts to aid guards tasked with removing bodies after executions.

He trained prison workers and gave them certificates as "electro-tution technicians."

Leuchter said he sold the original chair. A collector of "murderabilia" listed it on eBay in 2000. It now resides in the Alcatraz East Crime Museum in the Smoky Mountains.

Tennessee has executed only one person in Leuchter's electric chair. Daryl Holton died that way in 2007.

In preparation, an electrical engineer reduced the voltage from 2,640 to 1,750 and raised the amperage from 5 to 7. The timing was also changed from two one-minute jolts with a 10-second pause between to a 20-second and 15-second jolt with a 15-second pause between.

The execution was successful. The chair was inspected on Oct. 10 of this year and found to meet the criteria for an execution, state documents show.

But Leuchter said he feels the chair now is "defective and shouldn't be used."

"It worked the first time, but I think they were lucky," he said.

# Authorities probe mob's role in Bulger's slaying

By EDMUND H. MAHONY  
AND NICHOLAS RONDINONE  
The Hartford Courant

HARTFORD, Conn. — Notorious crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger, who used murder, terror and corruption to build a sprawling criminal network, was beaten to death Tuesday in a federal prison in West Virginia and authorities suspect other New England mobsters may be responsible, law enforcement sources said.

Bulger had been beaten almost beyond recognition, law enforcement sources said.

Authorities who spent careers trying to stop Bulger were scrambling to learn what had happened Tuesday when news broke around noon that he was found dead at the federal, maximum security Hazelton prison at Bruceton Mills, W.Va., where he had been transferred a day earlier.

William J. Powell, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, confirmed Bulger, 89, and in failing health, was dead and said through a spokesman that his office would investigate the circumstances.

"No other information will be released at this time," Powell's office said.

The U.S. Bureau of Prison said Bulger "was found unresponsive"

at 8:20 a.m. and that emergency life-saving measures by prison staff were unsuccessful. He was pronounced dead by the county medical examiner.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation was notified and an investigation has been initiated," the bureau of prisons said in a statement.

One of the law enforcement sources said federal investigators have begun looking at gangsters from New England who are confined at the Hazelton prison. There are at least two inmates from New England serving sentences at Hazelton for mob-related murder convictions.

USP Hazelton is a high security facility that houses 1,270 male offenders and is part of a larger federal prison complex.

Bulger was serving a life sentence for 11 murders and dozens of other crimes.

He had been held in a high security prison in the federal cor-

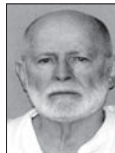
rectional complex at Coleman, Fla.

Because of deteriorating health and a heart condition — Bulger was using a wheelchair in prison — law enforcement sources said he was moved in recent days to a prisoner transportation hub in Oklahoma City and was being considered for admission to the federal prison medical center at Springfield, Mo.

When Bulger's health issues failed to qualify him for admission to the medical center, one of the sources said, he was transferred to the Hazelton high security institution in West Virginia, where inmate-on-inmate violence has been an issue of growing concern.

On Oct. 18, U.S. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., called for an investigation of the Hazelton facility after the violent deaths of two Washington-area inmates in the last year and reports of "brutal treatment of others."

Bulger used a corrupt relationship with a handful of FBI agents and other law enforcement officers to take over a small-time gang of hoodlums in his native South Boston and turn it into one of the country's most powerful criminal mobs.



Bulger

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## NATION

# Mueller asked FBI to probe misconduct scheme

BY MICHAEL SOMMERFELD

New York Daily News

Robert Mueller recently asked the FBI to investigate a possible scam in which women were offered cash to fabricate sexual misconduct accusations against him, a representative for the special counsel revealed Tuesday.

In a rare statement, Mueller's top spokesman, Peter Carr, said the special counsel team became aware of the alleged payoff scheme last week.

"We immediately referred the matter to the FBI for investigation," Carr said, calling the claims against Mueller "false."

The FBI declined to comment.

A U.S. official confirmed to The New York Daily News that the special counsel's office learned of the apparent scheme from reporters inquiring about receiving emails from a Florida woman who alleged right-

wing conspiracy theorist Jack Burkman had offered her more than \$20,000 to come forward with misconduct claims against Mueller, who's probing possible collusion between President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and the Russian government.

The woman's email, which was screen-grabbed and posted on social media by several journalists, states someone identifying himself as Bill Christensen recently called and asked her questions about Mueller, whom she said she worked for as a paralegal at the San Francisco offices of law firm Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw & Pittman in the 1970s.

Christensen, speaking in a British accent, told the unidentified woman he represented Burkman, a GOP lobbyist infamous for perpetuating a debunked conspiracy theory claiming Hillary Clinton was responsible for the 2016 defeat of Democratic National Committee staffer Seth Rich.

"He then offered to pay off all of my credit card debt, plus bring me a check for \$20,000 if I would do one thing," the woman said.

She said Christensen was reluctant to explain specifics and urged her to download Signal, a secure messaging app.

"I downloaded the app and he called me on that app a few minutes later," the woman said.

"He said (and I will never forget exactly what it was), 'I want you to make accusations of sexual misconduct and workplace harassment against Robert Mueller, and I want you to sign a sworn affidavit to that effect.'"

The woman says she "immediately" hung up and deleted the app.

"I didn't see Robert Mueller very much when I worked at Pillsbury, but when I did see him, he was always very polite to me, and was never inappropriate," she said. "I

don't know what these people are looking for but I'm not going to be part of some kind of Washington, D.C., drama for any price."

Mueller worked as an attorney at Pillsbury between 1973 and 1976. A spokesman for the law firm did not respond to emailed questions.

Within minutes of Carr's statement, Burkman posted a video on Facebook announcing he plans to host a news conference in Arlington, Va., on Thursday focused on "the first of the sex assault victims of Robert Mueller."

"Mueller has done bad things to a number of women, the first of whom is coming out this Thursday," Burkman said, without providing evidence or specifics.

Burkman later tweeted that "the allegation of paying a woman" is "false" but wouldn't comment on whether Christensen works for him or who he is.

## Pa. regulators OK'd child doc who was charged with abuse

BY MICHAEL RUBINKAM

Associated Press

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — Nearly two decades ago, Pennsylvania regulators were confronted with evidence that a well-regarded pediatrician had fondled the genitals of two small children during office visits.

Instead of holding him accountable, regulators let the doctor keep his medical license. He went on to molest at least a dozen more young patients, victimizing children right up until the time of his arrest in January, prosecutors allege.

Now, as Dr. Johnnie "Jack" Barto sits in jail awaiting trial on sexual assault charges involving more than 30 children, his 1990s-era patients and their parents say the state Board of Medicine failed to stop him when it had the chance and bears responsibility for what investigators are calling a "pervasive and prolonged pattern of abuse."

Police, prosecutors and Barto's own colleagues also deserve blame for looking the other way, they say.

"It could've stopped with me," Lee Ann Berkebile, 28, of Johnstown, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Instead they chose to cover for him and stick up for him, and now look what happened. All you did was let a sicko touch other girls."

Barto, 71, was arrested in January and charged with groping a 12-year-old girl during an office visit several weeks earlier. Suspecting the girl might not be alone, the Pennsylvania attorney general's office put out a call for other accusers to come forward — and they did, by the dozen, with claims going back to the late 1980s.

Barto has pleaded not guilty. If

the charges hold up, the case will represent another black mark against a profession that's long had trouble policing itself over sexual misconduct.

There have been more than 1,000 cases across the nation in which doctors were sanctioned for sexual misconduct but held onto their medical licenses, according to a 2016 investigation by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. A study by the consumer group Public Citizen that same year found state regulators often failed to punish abusive doctors at all. More than two-thirds of doctors with sexual misconduct reports in the National Practitioner Data Bank, a federal government database, faced no discipline from their states' medical boards, the study found.

"Without consequences, we cannot really solve the problem. You don't have enough deterrence out there," Public Citizen health researcher Azza AbuDagga said. Referring to Barto, she added: "This physician was let loose and was able to hurt other people. The interest of the physician superseded the interest of the public and that's not acceptable."

The Pennsylvania Department of State, which provides legal and administrative support to the board and prosecutes administrative cases of doctor misconduct, said in a statement that "the Board of Medicine takes allegations of sexual misconduct by professional licensees very seriously."

But the board does not keep statistics on how often it punishes doctors accused of sexual misconduct, so it's difficult to judge how seriously it has treated sexual abuse — either then or now.

Current board members were not in office when Barto's case was considered.



LISA MARIE PANE/AP

A dispatcher works at a desk station with a variety of screens used by those who take 911 emergency calls in Roswell, Ga., in March.

## Why is it so hard to text 911?

BY MAE ANDERSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK — People can livestream their every move on Facebook and chatter endlessly in group chats. But in most parts of the U.S., they still can't reach 911 by texting — an especially important service during mass shootings and other catastrophes when a phone call could place someone in danger.

Although text-to-911 service is slowly expanding, the emphasis there is on "slow." Limited funds, piecemeal adoption and outdated call center technology have all helped stymie growth.

Emergency 911 centers stress that a phone call is still the best way to reach them since calls provide them with location data and other needed details. But in some cases — for instance, if a person has a hearing disability, or when a call might attract the attention of assailants — texting is a far better way to call for help.

The 911 emergency system was developed for landlines. But now about 80 percent of U.S. 911 calls come from cellphones, according to the federal government's National 911 Program. There is no legal requirement for call centers to offer text-to-911 services.

If a center requests the service from mobile com-

panies like Verizon or Sprint, however, the companies are required to provide it within six months.

More money would speed implementation. "We need a significant federal grant program to modernize 911 systems across the country," said Jeff Cohen, chief counsel at advocacy group the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials.

Congressional legislation could speed adoption of text-to-911, and while there are two bills currently making their way through Congress related to the issue, they need more bipartisan support, Cohen said. Traditionally, 911 call centers have been funded by a combination of state and local funding, rather than relying on federal grants. For that reason, technology and adoption varies widely between states, cities and counties.

While some areas may have plenty of money to implement text-to-911 service, "others are cash-strapped cities or communities that would rather spend money on a police car rather than text-to-911," said Brian Fontes, chief executive officer of the National Emergency Number Association. "When you don't have the money you have to prioritize what you do with the money you have."

Implementing text-to-911 service usually starts with a state law requiring emergency centers to support it.

## NATION



Lauren Pestikas receives an infusion of the drug ketamine during a 45-minute session at an outpatient clinic in Chicago in July.

## Experimental depression drug ketamine brings high hopes, hype

By LINDSEY TANNER  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — It was launched decades ago as an anesthetic for animals and people, became a potent battlefield pain reliever in Vietnam and morphed into the trippy club drug Special K.

Now the chameleon drug ketamine is finding new life as an unapproved treatment for depression and suicidal behavior. Clinics have opened around the United States promising instant relief with their "unique" doses of ketamine in IVs, sprays or pills. And desperate patients are shelling out thousands of dollars for treatment often not covered by health insurance, with scant evidence on long-term benefits and risks.

Chicago preschool teacher Lauren Pestikas long struggled with depression and anxiety and made several suicide attempts before trying ketamine earlier this year. The price tag so far is about \$3,000, but "it's worth every dime and penny," said the 36-year-old.

Pestikas said she feels much better for a few weeks after each treatment, but the effects wear off and she scrambles to find a way to pay for another one.

For now, ketamine has not received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treating depression, though doctors can use it for that purpose.

Ketamine has been around since the 1960s and is widely used as an anesthetic drug during surgery because it doesn't suppress breathing. Compared to opioids such as morphine, ketamine isn't as addictive and doesn't cause breathing problems. And some studies have shown that ketamine can ease symptoms within hours for the toughest cases.

Its potential effects on depression were discovered in animal experiments in the late 1980s and early 1990s showing that glutamate, a brain chemical messenger, might play a role in depression, and that drugs including ketamine that target the glutamate pathway might work as antidepressants.

Conventional antidepressants like Prozac target serotonin, a different chemical messenger, and typically take weeks to months to kick in — a lag that can cause severely depressed patients to sink deeper into despair.

Ketamine's potential for almost immediate if temporary relief is what makes it so exciting, said Dr. Jennifer Vande Voort, a Mayo Clinic psychiatrist who has treated patients with depression since February.

"We don't have a lot of things that provide that kind of effect. What I worry about is that it gets so hyped up," she said.

The strongest studies suggest it's most useful and generally

safe in providing short-term help for patients who have not benefited from antidepressants. That amounts to about one-third of the roughly 300 million people with depression worldwide.

"It truly has revolutionized the field," changing scientists' views on how depression affects the brain and showing that rapid relief is possible, said Yale University psychiatrist Dr. Gerard Sanacora, who has done research for or consulted with companies seeking to develop ketamine-based drugs.

But to become standard depression treatment, he said, much more needs to be known.

Last year, Sanacora co-authored an American Psychiatric Association task force review of ketamine treatment for mood disorders that noted the benefits but said "major gaps" remain in knowledge about long-term effectiveness and safety. Most studies have been small, done in research settings and not in the real world.

When delivered through an IV, ketamine can cause a rapid increase in heart rate and blood pressure that could be dangerous for some patients. Ketamine also can cause hallucinations that some patients find scary.

"There are some very real concerns," Sanacora said. "We do know this drug can be abused, so we have to be very careful about how this is developed."

sufficient safeguards, and argued against the appointment of a lawyer it said was too conflicted to represent victims.

The actions take aim at a system that over decades has paid out billions of dollars to the sick and cancer-stricken but that critics say is opaque and prone to fraud and manipulation by well-connected lawyers. The government's intervention aligns it with business groups who have long complained about the process.

"We have an interest in fraud and con-

sumer protection, so if there is fraud happening out there that is cognizable under federal law, that's the type of thing the Justice Department tends to get interested in," acting Associate Attorney General Jesse P. Bannucci said in an interview.

But plaintiffs' lawyers and asbestos victims' advocates say there's scant proof of widespread fraud, particularly for a system that has accommodated millions of claims.

University at Buffalo law professor S. Todd Brown said the additional govern-

## Couple who died in Yosemite took risks for photos

By JOCELYN GECKER  
AND PAUL ELIAS  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — She was a self-described "adrenaline junkie," and he took "wow-worthy photos" of the couple posing at the edge of cliffs and jumping from planes that appeared on social media and a travel blog that attracted thousands of followers.

In one post at the Grand Canyon this past spring, Meenakshi Moorthy, 30, even warned daredevils who try to snap selfies from dangerous heights: "Did you know that wind gusts can be FATAL?"

The caption accompanies a photo of Moorthy sitting on the edge of the canyon's North Rim.

The couple's latest trip turned out to be their last. Moorthy and her husband, Vishnu Viswanath, 29, who were Indian expats living in California, fell to their deaths in Yosemite National Park last week while taking a selfie, the man's brother said Tuesday.

They set up their tripod near a ledge at a scenic overlook in the California park, Viswanath's brother, Jishnu Viswanath, told The Associated Press. Visitors saw the camera the next morning and alerted park rangers, who "used high-powered binoculars to find them and use helicopters to airlift the bodies," he said.

Rangers found their bodies about 800 feet below Taft Point, where visitors can walk to the edge of a vertigo-inducing granite ledge that offers spectacular views of the Yosemite Valley below.

Their thrill-seeking social media posts foreshadowed the couple's link to the growing problem of selfie deaths.

A study published this month in the Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care said 259 people had died taking selfies between October 2011 and November 2017.

The report, based on findings from researchers in India



Vishnu Viswanath and his wife, Meenakshi Moorthy, pose for a selfie in 2017 at Skydive Santa Barbara in Lompoc, Calif.

who scoured worldwide media reports, said the main causes of selfie deaths were drowning, usually involving people being washed away by waves or falling from a boat, followed by people killed while posing in front of a moving train, deaths involving falls from high places or while taking pictures with dangerous animals.

More than 10 people have died at Yosemite this year, some from natural causes and others from falls, park spokesman Scott Gediman said.

Moorthy and Viswanath were born in India and had lived in the United States for a few years, most recently in the San Francisco Bay Area. Cisco India said Viswanath was a software engineer at the company's San Jose, Calif., headquarters in Silicon Valley.

Moorthy described herself and her husband as "travel obsessed" on their blog, "Holidays & Happily Ever Afters," which was taken down Tuesday. It was filled with photos of the couple in front of snowy peaks and on romantic trips across Europe, where they took selfies from a gondola in Venice, at the Leaning Tower of Pisa and at the Vatican.

## US steps up scrutiny of funds for asbestos exposure victims

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has stepped up scrutiny of asbestos trust funds, concerned that the pots of money intended to help people exposed to the hazardous substance are being depleted by fraudulent claims, harming victims, businesses and the government.

The Justice Department in the last two months has demanded trust documents as part of a civil investigation, opposed the creation of another trust it said lacked suf-

ficient safeguards, and argued against the appointment of a lawyer it said was too conflicted to represent victims.

The actions take aim at a system that over decades has paid out billions of dollars to the sick and cancer-stricken but that critics say is opaque and prone to fraud and manipulation by well-connected lawyers. The government's intervention aligns it with business groups who have long complained about the process.

"We have an interest in fraud and con-

sumer protection, so if there is fraud happening out there that is cognizable under federal law, that's the type of thing the Justice Department tends to get interested in," acting Associate Attorney General Jesse P. Bannucci said in an interview.

But plaintiffs' lawyers and asbestos victims' advocates say there's scant proof of widespread fraud, particularly for a system that has accommodated millions of claims.

University at Buffalo law professor S. Todd Brown said the additional govern-

ment oversight, while not a bad idea, "could lead to money going to complying with this oversight rather than going to the victims."

The trusts started emerging in the 1980s, formed by makers of asbestos-containing products who sought bankruptcy protection in the face of lawsuits from people who feared they had been exposed. The maneuvering enabled the companies to shield themselves from lawsuits while setting aside money to pay pending and future claims for asbestos exposure.



## SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

## FDA updating definition of healthy

By CANDICE CHOI  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pizza bagels, chewing gum and bottled water want to play a starring new role in our diets: foods that can be called healthy.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is revamping its definition of healthy to reflect our changing understanding of nutrition science. The push is fueling debate about eating habits and what the new standard should say.

Frozen food makers are seeking special rules for "mini meals," citing little pizza bagels and dumplings as examples that might qualify. Chewing gum and bottled water companies say they should no longer be shut out from using the term just because their products don't provide nutrients. Advocacy groups and health professionals are also weighing in,

raising concerns about ingredients like sugar.

Some say the word healthy is inherently misleading when applied to a single product instead of an overall diet.

"The problem is that healthy is relative," said Bruce Y. Lee, a professor of international health at Johns Hopkins. Subsisting on broccoli alone, for instance, wouldn't be healthy.

The federal standards for use of the word "healthy" on labels was established in 1994 and set limits on total fat and cholesterol.

Susan Mayne, who heads the FDA's food labeling division, said the definition reflects decades-old understanding of nutrition and needs to be updated.

With the revamp, she said people will be able to trust the word "healthy" is based in science, unlike many other terms on packages. "This is one that the federal

agencies will stand behind," she said.

The government's dusty definition of healthy came under scrutiny in late 2015, when the FDA warned Kind that its snack bars had too much fat to use the term. Kind pushed back, saying the fat came from nuts.

Since the rule was established more than two decades ago, nutrition experts have drawn a greater distinction between "good fats" like those found in nuts and "bad fats" like the trans fats in oils that are partially hydrogenated, an industrial process that gives foods a longer shelf life.

The link between dietary cholesterol and heart disease is also no longer clear.

Separate U.S. dietary guidelines, which are updated every five years, no longer set limits on total fat or cholesterol. They still recommend avoiding trans fats

and limiting saturated fats, such as those found in meat and milk. But even the link between saturated fats and heart disease is now questioned.

The shifting views reflect the pitfalls of nutrition science. Most food studies are based on links between what people say they eat and their health, which leaves the door open for flawed conclusions. Pinning down cause-and-effect relationships is harder.

It's why the effort to redefine "healthy" invites such debate. After launching the push in late 2016, the FDA received more than 1,140 public comments on the matter.

The next step is for the FDA to propose a new definition, which would be subject to another round of public comment. The agency won't say when it expects to establish a final rule with the new definition.

In addition to limiting fat and



MARK LENNIHAN/AP

**The changing definition of what is healthy has led the Food and Drug Administration to work on changes to its nutrition standards.**

cholesterol, the current standard requires the presence of a nutrient like calcium, fiber, iron or vitamin C. It's partly why bottled water and sugar-free gum companies say they're unfairly excluded from using the term.

## NASA: Elite planet-hunter craft is dead

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA's elite planet-hunting spacecraft has been declared dead, just a few months shy of its 10th anniversary.

Officials announced the Kepler Space Telescope's demise Tuesday.

Already well past its expected lifetime, the 9½-year-old Kepler had been running low on fuel for months. Its ability to point at distant stars and identify possible alien worlds worsened dramatically at the beginning of October, but flight controllers still managed to retrieve its latest observations. The telescope has now gone silent. Its fuel tank kept the gate for mankind's exploration of the cosmos," said retired NASA scientist William Borucki, who led the original Kepler science team.

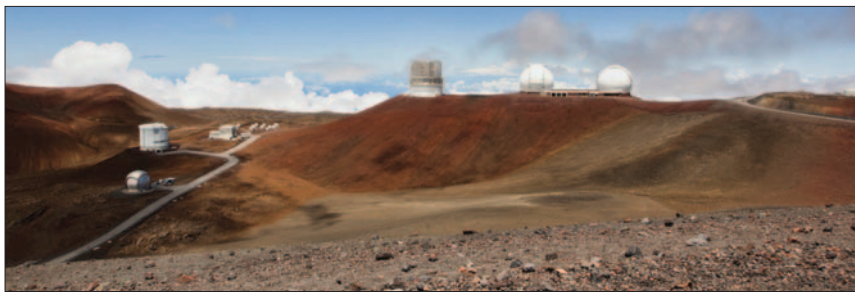
Kepler discovered 2,681 planets outside our solar system and even found a few that might be habitable. It showed us rocky worlds the size of Earth that, like Earth, might harbor life. It also unveiled incredible super Earths: planets bigger than Earth but smaller than Neptune.

The \$700 million mission last year even helped to uncover a solar system with eight planets, just like ours.

In all, close to 4,000 exoplanets have been confirmed over the past two decades, two-thirds of them thanks to Kepler.

A successor to Kepler launched in April, NASA's TESS spacecraft, has its sights on stars closer to home. It's already identified some possible planets.

Now 94 million miles from Earth, Kepler should remain in a safe, stable orbit around the sun. Flight controllers will disable the spacecraft's transmitters before bidding a final "good night."



CALVIN JONES/AP

**Hawaii's Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld a decision to grant a construction permit for an embattled international giant telescope project planned for Mauna Kea, a mountain Native Hawaiians consider sacred.**

## Hawaii court OKs permit for giant telescope

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER  
Associated Press

HONOLULU — After years of delay, including lengthy court battles and passionate protests from those willing to be arrested for blocking construction crews, builders of a giant telescope plan to move forward with constructing the \$1.4 billion instrument on a Hawaii mountain that is considered sacred.

The state Supreme Court's 4-1 ruling Tuesday upholding the project's construction permit is a victory for the contentious Thirty Meter Telescope planned for Hawaii's tallest mountain, Mauna Kea. Opponents say the telescope will desecrate sacred land on the Big Island. Supporters say it will bring educational and economic opportunities to the state.

Astronomy and Native Hawaiian "uses on Mauna Kea have coexisted for many years and the TMT Project will not curtail or restrict Native Hawaiian uses," the ruling said. The advanced telescope will answer some of the

most fundamental questions of the universe, and Native Hawaiians will also benefit from it, the ruling added.

Associate Justice Michael Wilson dissented but didn't immediately release his opinion.

Further legal action is still possible, state Attorney General Russell Suzuki said. There can be a motion for reconsideration filed within 10 days and, following that, a request can be made to the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decision, he said.

Keolalo Pisciotta, one of the main leaders against the telescope, said she's doesn't know what their next steps will be, but she's not hopeful that more legal wrangling will help.

Opponents and supporters have been awaiting the ruling because it was expected to help determine whether the project is built in Hawaii or moves to a backup location in Spain's Canary Islands that is less desirable to scientists hoping to use the instrument for groundbreaking discoveries.

Henry Yang, chair of the TMT

International Observatory Board of Governors, said in a statement they are grateful the ruling will allow the telescope to be built on Mauna Kea.

Gov. David Ige, who said he is pleased with the ruling, vowed to protect rights of protesters and telescope builders. "The court's decision will allow Hawaii to continue to lead the world in astronomy," Ige said.

State Department of Land and Natural Resources Chairwoman Suzanne Case said the next steps involve telescope builders submitting construction plans. The department will review the plans before issuing permission to proceed.

Plans for the project date to 2013, when scientists selected Mauna Kea after a five-year, around-the-world campaign to find the ideal site.

The project won a series of approvals from Hawaii, including a permit to build on conservation land in 2011.

Protests disrupted a groundbreaking and Hawaiian blessing

ceremony at the site in 2014. After that, the protests intensified.

Construction stopped in April 2015 after 31 protesters were arrested for blocking the work. A second attempt to restart construction a few months later ended with more arrests and crews retreating when they encountered larger bulldozers in the road.

Scientists revere the mountain for its summit above the clouds that provides a clear view of the sky with very little air and light pollution.

The telescope will allow astronomers to reach back 13 billion years to answer fundamental questions about the advent of the universe, touts a website for the project.

A group of universities in California and Canada make up the telescope company, with partners from China, India and Japan. The instrument's primary mirror would measure 98 feet in diameter. Compared with the largest existing visible-light telescope in the world, it would be three times as wide, with nine times more area.

## WORLD



AJIT SOLANKI/AP

The Statue of Unity is silhouetted against the setting sun at Kevadiya Colony in Narmada district of Gujarat state, India, on Wednesday.

## India unveils towering statue of a key independence leader

By ASHOK SHARMA  
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India's prime minister on Wednesday unveiled a towering bronze statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key independence leader being promoted as a national icon in the ruling party's campaign ahead of next year's general elections.

Patel, who hailed from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's native Gujarat state, was also India's first home minister after the 1947 independence from Britain.

He was known as the "Iron Man of India" for integrating various states in the post-independence era, when the creation of Pakistan led to massive bloodshed between Hindus and Muslims moving between the two nations.

The statue is part of a broader project by Modi to counter the opposition Indian National Congress Party's firm claim on India's history by way of the country's

first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, his mentor, peace activist Mahatma Gandhi, and his daughter, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated by her guards in 1984.

Nehru's great-grandson, Rahul Gandhi, leads the Congress Party, and if a unified opposition wins a majority of seats in parliamentary elections due next spring, he could be a candidate for India's next prime minister.

The Patel statue "puts the opposition in a quandary because any criticism of Modi's showmanship will enable him to depict critics as being legatees of those who denied Patel his rightful place in the nation and history," said Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a Delhi-based political analyst and author of the book "Modi: The Man, The Times."

"In the process, not only will the Statue of Unity literally dwarf statues of all other Indians leaders, but the event will also enable

the memory of Sardar to rise imposingly over Congress Party leaders," Mukhopadhyay said.

At 597 feet, Patel's bronze figure in Kevadiya, a village in Gujarat, is one of the tallest statues in the world — almost 10 stories higher than the 501-foot Spring Temple Buddha statue in China and nearly twice the height of the Statue of Liberty, which stands at 305 feet.

The 42-month project built by 250 engineers and 3,000 workers began in 2013, when Modi was the top elected official in Gujarat. After he became prime minister in 2014, he pledged to complete it despite some critics balking at the nearly \$403 million price tag, which they said could be better spent on welfare programs for India's poor.

The monument will have a museum with 40,000 documents, 2,000 photographs and a research center dedicated to Patel's life and work.

## Secret no more: Israel's outreach to Arab states

By AYA BATRAWY  
AND JOSEF FEDERMAN  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — It was a scene unthinkable just weeks ago: an Israeli Cabinet minister, tears of joy filling her eyes, proudly singing her country's national anthem at a sports event in the heart of the Arab world.

The spectacle of Miri Regev singing "HaTikva," which describes the Jewish yearning for a homeland in Zion, was just one in a series of taboo-busting public appearances by Israeli officials in Gulf Arab states that have thrust the once-secret back channels of outreach into public view.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has for years boasted about warming ties with key Arab states that have no diplomatic relations with Israel. But those ties — still largely unpopular among the Arab public — were rarely visible.

That changed on Friday, when Netanyahu made an unannounced visit to Oman, where he met longtime ruler Sultan Qaboos bin Said. It marked the first visit by an Israeli leader in more than 20 years to the tiny Gulf state, a U.S. ally that has in the past facilitated negotiations between the United States and Iran.

"These were important talks, both for the state of Israel and very important talks for Israel's security," Netanyahu told his Cabinet on Sunday. "There will be more."

As he spoke, Regev was in the United Arab Emirates with an Israeli delegation at a judo tournament — the scene of her happy tears after Israeli judoka Sagi Muki won the gold medal — and Netanyahu's communications minister was headed to the UAE for a security conference.

Israel's transportation minister, Yisrael Katz, is scheduled to head to Oman next week for a transportation conference where he plans to present his plan for a rail link between Gulf Arab countries and Israel.

The driving force in these visits seems to be a shared concern over Iran. Israel and many of the Gulf Arab states consider Iran a destabilizing force, meddling in conflicts and supporting rivals across the region. Oman, which borders Saudi Arabia and lies at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, has often played the role of regional mediator.

It also provides an opportunity for those Arab countries to curry favor in Washington. President Donald Trump has promised to present a plan for the "Deal of the Century" for Mideast peace, and Saudi Arabia's dependability as an influential conduit has been

thrown into question amid the fallout from the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's Istanbul consulate.

Regev's emotional appearance Sunday at the gold medal ceremony in Abu Dhabi was unprecedented and especially remarkable, given her political leanings. At home, she is an outspoken nationalist popular with hard-liners.

In Abu Dhabi, Regev also toured the grand Sheikh Zayed Mosque. Wearing a loosely wrapped headscarf and the traditional floor-length gown known as an abaya, she was warmly welcomed by local officials.

While the visits by Netanyahu and his Likud Party ministers are a huge public relations boost for him domestically, they do not immediately signal an Arab embrace of Israel.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict remains an emotional issue with the Arab public, and relations will likely remain limited without a peace agreement.

Israeli forces have killed more than 160 Palestinians during months of Hamas-led protests in the Gaza Strip against an Israeli blockade and a deepening humanitarian crisis. The peace process has been frozen for years, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas cut ties with Washington after the White House recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital last year and moved its embassy to the city.

The Palestinians fear that Trump is trying to rally support from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states in order to pressure the Palestinians into accepting a peace plan that falls far short of their demands.

In Muscat, Netanyahu's meeting appeared aimed at dealing with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and his close ties with the Trump administration. With Netanyahu urging, the U.S. this year pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal, which Oman had supported.

After the visit, Oman's foreign minister, Yusuf bin Alawi, suggested the meeting was merely a strategic attempt at dealing with some of the Middle East's most pressing issues. In an interview with Al-Jazeera, he said Netanyahu had initiated the meeting to present his views on Mideast issues to Sultan Qaboos.

"What Sultan Qaboos is doing now is nothing short of an intervention," said Sigurd Neubauer, a Washington-based expert on Oman. "Oman is interjecting itself into the Israeli-Palestinian peace process for one obvious reason, and that is (because) the Arab states are so divided."

## Cameroon official issues travel warning

By EDWIN KINDZEKA MOKI  
Associated Press

YAOUNDE, Cameroon — Cameroon's defense minister called on all foreign nationals in the country's restive regions to be cautious after an American missionary died after being shot in the head amid fighting between armed separatists and soldiers in the northwest.

"If you must be there, immediately inform the military so we can assure your safety," Joseph Beti Assomo said Wednesday, adding that Cameroon's English-speaking northwest and southwest regions, where sepa-

ratists are fighting for an independent state, are dangerous for foreigners.

Charles Trumann Wesco, a missionary from the U.S. state of Indiana, had been in the region with his wife, Stephanie, and eight children for nearly two weeks before Tuesday's shooting.

Dave Halyman, assistant pastor at Believers Baptist Church in Warsaw, Ind., where Stephanie Wesco's father, Don Williams, is the senior pastor, said that Williams had spoken by phone with his daughter after the shooting.

Reporting Williams' account, Halyman said the shooting happened as Charles and Stephanie

Wesco were in a car being driven by another missionary to the town of Bannui from the Bamenda suburb of Bamili, where the family has been living. He said Charles Wesco was in the front seat, and two shots hit the windshield and struck him in the head. No one else was hurt, Halyman said.

The family had raised financial support to work in Cameroon for two years and had visited the country two years ago on a survey trip.

The United States embassy has not reacted to the shooting, but it has for some time warned U.S. citizens against travel to the country's restive regions.

## WORLD

# Lion Air crash searchers find debris, black box

By NINIE KARMINI  
AND STEPHEN WRIGHT  
Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The search for the crashed Lion Air plane has led to aircraft debris and passenger belongings on the seafloor but the object thought to be the fuselage is still eluding it, an Indonesian official said Wednesday as chilling video of passengers boarding the fatal flight emerged.

Search and Rescue Agency chief Muhammad Syaugi said the seafloor findings give the search team confidence they will find

the body of the aircraft. The location of the airplane's "black box" flight data recorder has been identified, he said, but strong currents prevented it from being recovered.

"We saw belongings such as life jackets, pants, clothes scattered on the seabed," Syaugi said. "We believe the fuselage will be around there; we hope that our target can be found."

The 2-month-old Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet plunged into the Java Sea early Monday just minutes after taking off from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board.

The disaster has reignited concerns about safety in Indonesia's fast-growing

aviation industry, which was recently removed from European Union and U.S. blacklists, and also raised doubts about the safety of Boeing's new generation 737 MAX 8 plane.

Syaugi said one of the ships with high-tech equipment being used in the search dispatched a remote-operated vehicle that recorded parts of the aircraft on the seafloor but not the 72-foot-long object detected at a depth of 105 feet that is believed to be the fuselage. He said the area is about 1,300 feet from the coordinates where the airplane lost contact.

Three other objects in separate locations

were reached by divers but turned out to be two sunken boats and a fish trap. A remote-operated vehicle was sent to the black box location "but the currents on the seabed were very strong; the ROV was carried away," Syaugi said.

Searchers have sent 57 body bags containing human remains to police identification experts who on Wednesday said they'd identified their first victim, a 24-year-old woman, from a ring and a right hand.

Anguished family members have been providing samples for DNA tests, and police say results are expected within four to eight days.

## At least 19 missing in Philippine landslide

By JIM GOMEZ  
Associated Press

Rescuers pulled out four bodies and four survivors but at least 19 others remained missing Wednesday after a massive typhoon-triggered landslide crashed down on two government buildings in the northern Philippines, officials said.

Regional police Chief Superintendent Rolando Nana said rescue efforts by more than 100 police, firefighters and volunteers were halted at nightfall in remote Natonin in Mountain province and would resume at daybreak. Rain and mud have hampered the frantic search.

Smaller landslides on roads leading to Natonin have slowed the advance of more rescuers and earth-moving equipment, Nana said.

Disaster response officials said at least 19 people remained trapped in the landslide, which occurred as Typhoon Yutu pummeled the region Tuesday. A rescuer en route to Natonin died in still unclear circumstances. About 14 villagers were injured in the landslides.

At least 11 people have died in the northern Philippines because of the typhoon, mostly due to the landslides.

"It's a massive landslide and

boulders also came rolling down from the mountain. The buildings got demolished and entombed. They're gone," government engineer Junel Emengga told The Associated Press by phone from the site of the landslide.

Rescuers used shovels and their hands to search for survivors in the avalanche because earth-moving equipment could not pass through the blocked roads, he said.

The landslide buried a building that was being constructed and an older one that was being expanded for the Department of Public Works and Highway. Five nearby houses were also hit, he said.

Emengga said he and other staffers of the public works department did not report for work at the four-story buildings Tuesday because of the raging typhoon, but other employees of a private construction company were in the buildings. Nearby residents also sought shelter in the buildings as the typhoon roared, he said.

Typhoon Yutu weakened considerably from its earlier super typhoon status over the Pacific Ocean before slamming into the northeastern Philippines before dawn Tuesday.

## Russia bombing injures 3

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A man set off a bomb at the entrance of the local branch of Russia's main intelligence agency in a northern city Wednesday, injuring three security officials and killing himself, authorities said.

The man entered the local branch of the FSB intelligence agency in Khankalsk and removed the improvised explosive device from a bag, causing it to detonate. The National Anti-Terrorist Committee said.

The explosion killed the man and injured three FSB officers. It was not immediately clear if the

man had meant to just leave the bomb or had also intended to die.

Russian investigators later identified the attacker as a local 17-year-old man and said they are treating the attack as an act of terrorism.

Akhkangelsk governor Igor Orlov had earlier reported one death but did not indicate that that was the attacker. Authorities cordoned off the area around the FSB office and boosted security measures at all public offices in the city.

The FSB and other security have been targeted in the past in another region, the North Caucasus, mostly by Islamist insurgents.



B.K. BAGHAWAT/AP

Supporters of a Pakistani religious group block a main road after Pakistan's top court on Wednesday acquitted Christian woman Asia Bibi, who was sentenced to death in 2010 on blasphemy charges.

## Pakistani court acquits woman who was facing death in blasphemy case

By ZARAR KHAN AND MUNIR AHMED  
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's top court on Wednesday acquitted a Christian woman who was sentenced to death under the country's controversial blasphemy law, a landmark ruling that sparked protests by hard-line Islamists and raised fears of violence.

Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar announced the verdict to a packed courtroom and ordered the release of Asia Bibi, who has been on death row since 2010. The Catholic mother of five has been held at an undisclosed location for security reasons and is expected to leave the country for her safety.

The verdict could set up a showdown between authorities and religious extremists, who held protests in several cities and blocked the road between Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Two Pakistani officials have already been assassinated in connection with the case, and hard-liners had threatened to target judges in case of acquittal.

The charges against Bibi date back to a hot day in 2009 when she went to get water for her and her fellow farmworkers. Two Muslim women refused to drink from a container used by a Christian. A few days later, a mob accused her of insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

The mere rumor of blasphemy can spark lynchings in Pakistan, a deeply conservative country where religious minorities have been repeatedly targeted by extremists. Instead, Bibi was arrested, tried and sentenced to death in a case that drew in-



INM ASIM/AP

Pakistani Christians distribute sweets to celebrate the acquittal of Bibi, a Catholic mother of five.

ternational attention to the blasphemy law.

Rights groups say the blasphemy law has been used to settle scores and to persecute religious minorities, and have pressed for stricter punishments for false accusations. Religious extremists have made defending the law a central rallying cry and have attacked those who question it. Salman Taseer, the governor of Punjab province, was shot and killed by one of his guards in 2011 for defending Bibi and criticizing the misuse of the blasphemy law.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Cops: Man found hiding on roof after accident

**VA** STAFFORD — Authorities in Virginia said a wanted man drove into 10 vehicles before climbing onto the roof of a fast-food restaurant and hiding in an air-conditioning unit.

Citing a Stafford County Sheriff's Office release, news outlets reported deputies found a pickup hauling another pickup crashed into 10 vehicles Monday morning. Four vehicles were occupied, and four people were hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries.

Police said the truck driver, James Edward Baumann Jr., 37, was intoxicated and fled on foot, scaled a metal pipe and climbed onto the roof of a Five Guys. He was found in the unit on the roof.

## Teen accused of posing as Secret Service officer

**SC** GREENVILLE — Authorities said a teenager was impersonating a Secret Service officer in South Carolina.

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office told news outlets in a statement that the 17-year-old was arrested Sunday after spending the weekend traveling to four locations in a silver SUV with a siren and blue lights. The statement said he was flashing a badge and a handgun and was also carrying handcuffs and a radio.

The sheriff's office said the boy had gotten the police gear from a relative who is currently a law enforcement officer and was unaware he took the equipment.

The teenager was charged with four counts of impersonating a law enforcement officer.

## Decadent 'Wing Bowl' no more after 26 years

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia's annual decadent display of binge eating and bad behavior known as Wing Bowl is over after 26 years.

The event, hosted by a sports radio station on the Friday before the Super Bowl, drew thousands of rowdy fans to the Wells Fargo Center in the early morning hours to kick off Super Bowl weekend.

WIP hosts Angelo Cataldi and Al Morganti announced the end of Wing Bowl on the air Tuesday morning.

Morganti originally came up with the idea as a way to get Philadelphia sports fans through another championship weekend without the home team.

## Police: Man took his dogs' pain medicine

**CT** GUILFORD — Police in Connecticut said a man charged with animal cruelty used prescription pain medication meant for his dogs on himself.

Guilford police said James Cunningham, 33, of East Haven, got prescription pain medicine from veterinary offices in Guilford and along the Connecticut shoreline to treat what police call "suspicious re-occurring injuries" to his two dogs. WYTV reported police say Cunningham shopped doctors to obtain drugs.

## THE CENSUS

# 300

The number of bales of hay on a 40-foot trailer a Missouri man was charged with stealing. The Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader reported Colton Inmon, 30, was charged with second-degree burglary and felony stealing. Court documents said the investigation began in August when a Christian County man reported that the trailer was gone, along with hay bales that were worth more than \$13,000. After the property owner got a tip that Inmon was driving the trailer, a deputy went to Inmon's house.



ERIC ALBRECHT, THE COLUMBUS (OHIO) DISPATCH/AP

## Taking aim

Miles Balfour, 17, of Fort Hayes High School, eyes Erin Valentine, far right, before changing his mind and throwing a cream pie at Kiley Orchard, second from right, outside the Main Library on Grant Street in Columbus, Ohio, on Monday. It was the culmination of a reading challenge between teens and library staff members during Teen Read Week. The teens won, so they got to throw cream pies at the staff members. Valentine is a youth services specialist at the library and Orchard is an information services specialist.

Cunnington was arrested and charged with four counts of cruelty to animals, six counts of illegally obtaining drugs and four counts of doctor shopping.

## Man helps stranger by holding her baby

**AL** SHEFFIELD — A black woman was trying to juggle a sleeping infant and a pile of paperwork at an Alabama doctor's office when a white man offered to help.

Al.com reported Monday that Natasha Crittenden Wilson photographed the moment between the two strangers and posted it online where it was viewed more than 1.3 million times. Wilson's post said the woman was trying to figure what to do when the man approached and offered to hold the baby.

Identified by family as Joe Hale, the man is seen happily carrying the baby while the woman sits nearby. The post said "racism is still VERY real in our society today BUT THIS MAN GAVE ME HOPE."

## Police recover giant inflatable colon

**KS** KANSAS CITY — Kansas City police said they have recovered a giant inflatable colon stolen in October.

The 10-foot long, 150-pound inflatable was taken from the back of a pickup in Kansas City. It is used by the Colon Cancer Coalition for education during walking and running events.

Police said the colon, valued at \$4,000, was found Monday in a vacant house in Kansas City.

The department offered no information on how the large display was taken and moved or why it was at the house.

The inflatable colon is stored at the University of Kansas Cancer Center.

## Paramedic accused of hurting patients

**TN** CHATTANOOGA — A Tennessee paramedic is accused of intentionally hurting patients and then bragging about it online.

The Tennessee reported Monday that state records said Gordon Brett Stokes, 43, in 2016 intentionally had a less experienced first responder drill into a patient's bone without anesthesia.

Records say Stokes also had another first responder insert into that patient's nose a breathing tube coated in alcohol-based hand sanitizer instead of lubricant. They say he then bragged about the abuse on Facebook.

The Tennessee Board of Emergency Medical Services revoked Stokes' paramedic license last month.

Stokes says he previously worked as a paramedic in Alaska, Florida, Hawaii and Afghanistan.

## Thermal imaging drone helps find mountain lion

**CA** PLEASANTON — A mountain lion roaming the parking lot of a busy office complex in the eastern San Francisco Bay suburbs was tranquilized and removed with some high-tech help.

Police in Pleasanton and California Department of Fish and

Wildlife officers used a drone with thermal imaging cameras to track the puma, which appears to be about a year old and healthy at about 80 pounds.

It took four tranquilizer darts to bring him down.

## Teen makes costumes for premie superheroes

**FL** ORLANDO — The babies in the neonatal intensive care unit at a Florida hospital may not remember their first Halloween. But they'll have costumes, thanks to a 13-year-old middle schooler who made more than 100 capes featuring emblems from Batman, Wonder Woman, Superman and The Incredibles.

Rachel Maretsky told the Orlando Sentinel it's the second year she's made the capes for babies at Winnie Palmer Hospital in Orlando who she calls superheroes.

Maretsky's parents and some friends helped make the small capes, which they had to paste with hot glue in a clean space to avoid germs.

From wire reports

## FACES

# No more Madea

Tyler Perry is killing off his film matriarch — but 'don't tell her'

What drives a man to kill off his grandma? Well, Tyler Perry has a pretty basic reason for taking his prolific Madea character out of circulation.

"I just don't want to be her age, playing her. Come on, there's more there," he said Monday on SiriusXM, where he announced that his cross-dressing character's days are numbered.

After, you know, a farewell stage tour around the country and a final movie in 2019.

"We're gonna say goodbye to her. Don't tell her," Perry joked on Radio Andy.

The final flick will be "Tyler Perry's A Madea Family Funeral," which he said has been in the can for two years. It will come out March 1.

"I didn't want to go from 'Boo!' to 'Boo 2!' to another 'Madea,'" he said by way of explaining the delay. "So I put 'Acrimony' in front of it — which, I love that movie, man — and then I wanted to do this one ['Nobody's Fool,' out Friday] and then that one."

"Time for me to kill that old b---," he said, laughing. "I'm tired; I'm tired."

— Christie D'Zurilla/Los Angeles Times



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Writer and director Tyler Perry discusses his latest film, "Nobody's Fool," Monday during the BUILD Speaker Series at AOL Studios in New York.

## Kanye West: 'I've been used'

ELAHE IZADI  
AND TRAVIS M. ANDREWS  
The Washington Post

The past several months have been quite the wild ride in the land of Kanye West news. His comments about slavery being a choice, calls to abolish the 13th Amendment and outspoken admiration for President Donald Trump, much to the chagrin of many of his fans, all came to a head with his bizarre, televised Oval Office meeting with the president last month.

Just last weekend, he had been credited with designing the logo for shirts connected to "Blexit," a call for African Americans to leave the Democratic Party that has been championed by Candace Owens, the spokeswoman for the pro-Trump organization Turning Point USA.

Now, West is apparently cutting off all political ties. In tweets posted Tuesday, he seemingly attempted to retreat from many of the claims, statements, social media snippets and interviews that have characterized his public persona in recent months.

"My eyes are now wide open and now realize I've been used to spread messages I don't believe in," he tweeted. "I am distancing myself from politics and completely focusing on being creative !!!"

Perhaps the tipping point came over the weekend. That's when tweets about "Blexit" merchandise were unveiled during Turning Point USA's Young Black Leadership Summit.

"Blexit is a renaissance and I am blessed to say that this logo, these colors, were created by my dear friend and fellow superhero Kanye West," said Owens, according to Page Six.

But West tweeted that he didn't design the logo and he wants nothing to do with "Blexit."

West also fired off messages about the current state of his political stances.

It's unclear what prompted the sudden tweeting, but he seems to imply that his family and friends — who support his "actual beliefs" — might be involved.

West has long been prone to public outbursts. But it felt a little different at a concert in 2016 when he surprised a wife fan by claiming that he would have voted for Trump — if he had voted at all. He also stormed offstage during another concert.

Days later he was hospitalized for stress and exhaustion, and the rest is history.

West remained out of the spotlight for a while, even deleting his Twitter account. He returned to the social media platform in April to announce several albums. He also said he was writing a philosophy book titled "Break the Simulation," only to later reveal that the philosophy book was actually his tweets.

Among these tweets was one that read "I love the way Candace Owens thinks." Owens, who once used the social media handle "Red Pill Black," has argued that the media has brainwashed black people to vote for Democrats.

## Pink Floyd drummer Mason plans US tour in 2019

From wire services

Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason is planning to tour North America next year to perform some classic Floyd songs, but don't expect "Comfortably Numb" or "Another Brick in the Wall."

Mason instead will be digging deep into the Pink Floyd archives to offer tunes not heard live in America for a long time, if ever. Nick Mason's Saucerful of Secrets will be jamming to pre-"Dark Side of the Moon" material.

"I really wanted to find something different and a bit quirky," Mason told The Associated Press by phone from London. "I think, for me, what's most interesting is to revisit the thinking behind some of these pieces."

The band — which includes Spandau Ballet guitarist Gary Kemp, longtime Pink Floyd touring bassist Guy Pratt, guitarist Lee Harris and keyboardist Dom Beken — formed this year in the United Kingdom after bandmates nudged Mason to make music again.

The name of the new band comes from "A Saucerful of Secrets," released in June 1968. Some of the songs they play live include "See Emily Play," "Arnold Layne," "The Nile Song," "Bike," "Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun" and "Obscured by Clouds."

Mason said he's not worried that Floyd fans will turn up and expect to hear hits from such



ROCKARCHIVE.COM/AP

**Pink Floyd drummer Nick Mason and his new band, Saucerful of Secrets, plan to tour North America next year to perform some classic, often more obscure Floyd songs.**

later albums as "The Wall" or "Animals." He cites social media for making it clear what will be played, something he noticed after the band's first concert.

"Almost two hours after doing the very first pub gig, everything was all over the web and everyone had a pretty good idea of what they were going to get," he said. "So if it wasn't what they wanted, they didn't turn up."

The new 25-date tour will kick off March

12, 2019, in Vancouver and take the band to Washington, California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Washington, D.C.

### Other news

■ Los Angeles County prosecutors have decided not to charge actor **Sylvester Stallone** in connection with decades-old sexual assault allegations. In a memorandum made public Tuesday, prosecutors said witnesses could not corroborate allegations that the 72-year-old actor sexually assaulted a woman in 1987 and 1990. The allegations were also beyond the statute of limitations for a filing of sexual assault, according to the memo.

■ NPR host **Guy Raz** is bringing his show to the world of books. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Audible announced Wednesday that "How I Built This: Lessons in Life and Business from the World's Greatest Innovators, Entrepreneurs, and Idealists" will be published in the fall of 2020. The book is named for Raz's popular podcast.

■ Cello maestro **Yo-Yo Ma** will perform at the foot of the Arc de Triomphe as part of the ceremonies marking the centenary of the end of the World War I on Nov. 11 in Paris.

**“[There are] a million ‘La La Lands’ every year. How often do we get a ‘Moonlight’? How often do we get ‘Black Panther’? What to me will be true equality is when ‘Black Panther’ comes out and it’s just like ‘Captain America.’”**

Lena Waithe

actress and Emmy-winning screenwriter, at an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences lunch in Los Angeles on Tuesday



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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

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## OPINION

## This rhetoric is the enemy of civility

By MEGAN MCARDLE  
The Washington Post

I'd always shuddered to imagine what it would be like to live as a dissident under some autocratic regime, hunted and harried as an "enemy of the people." And now I suppose I'm getting a slight taste of that, since President Donald Trump on Monday tweeted that the "Fake News (Media) is the Enemy of the People." He later specified on Fox News that The Washington Post falls into that category.

Some journalists are greatly alarmed, but I just can't muster much fear of persecution. The president struggles to control a handful of his senior staff, strong-arming the vast federal bureaucracy into carrying out any purges he fancies looks entirely beyond his capacities.

And yet it's still worrisome that the commander in chief seems to enjoy dictator cosplay. The job of U.S. president ought to offer enough drama and pageantry to satisfy anyone. Trump should have neither the time nor the need to spend afternoons dressing up as Dear Leader and strutting through our Twitter feeds.

Still more worrying are his supporters' often pleased reactions to these sorts of attacks. I don't really expect any better from Donald Trump. But I retain rather higher hopes for conservatives.

His supporters might respond that he is justified: that the media has a liberal bias and that the skew has become more monolithic, and less restrained in its expression, since Trump's election. Most media outlets do indeed lean to the left, and they're certainly not overfond of Trump. But I'd ask my conservative friends whether dubbing them enemies of the people is really the best way to go about correcting that prob-

lem. Or even the best way to name it.

I've written more than my share on media bias, but I've managed to avoid defining a vague profession, with tens of thousands of individuals, as a massive fifth column. And I've definitely avoided deploying "enemies of the people," which has a particularly grotesque history.

The first recorded usage seems to have been in the Roman Empire. The Roman senate declared Emperor Nero hostis publicus in A.D. 68, OK, fair enough. But the phrase came in wider currency during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror. After that, its biography offers a whirlwind tour of the worst regimes in modern history.

In the Soviet Union under Vladimir Lenin, the designation "enemy of the people" justified gross crimes against people who'd had the temerity to, say, own a bit of property under the old regime. Stalin, not to be outdone, widened the meaning to include fellow communists who had displeased him in some way. The carnage was so appalling that even Nikita Khrushchev repudiated the phrase in 1956, saying it had been "physically annihilating such individuals."

Oh, and I'd mention that Nazi Germany also wielded "enemy of the people" as a cudgel. Hardly a good look for the president of the United States.

Is it wrong that conservative readers will be getting angry? "There you go again! You mainstream media types are always calling us Nazis! Such nonsense!" As it happens, I agree. It is nonsense to argue this way, and the left-wing folks who do it ought to knock it off. Trump's rhetoric about immigrants and others appalls me. But that's

not in the same category as establishing a fascist dictatorship. Nor is tightening our immigration policy very much like invading other countries and sending millions of citizens to extermination camps. It's offensive lunacy to suggest these things are somehow inextricably linked.

And it's not much more reasonable to claim a direct causal link between Trump's rhetoric and the monstrous synagogogue shooting in Pittsburgh, as is now happening. Jews are not among the groups Trump is known for slandering, and America has a pernicious history of anti-Semitic violence long pre-dating Trump. Sadly, there were deadly attacks at Jewish centers under both Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

So, no, friends, I'm not arguing that Trump is Hitler, or even Hitler Lite. I'm entirely confident that even if he wanted to trash the Constitution and impose a racist dictatorship, neither the institutions of the United States nor the people of the United States would permit it. But one can dislike the president's unpleasantly evocative phraseology without thinking the dark night of fascism must therefore be upon us. One merely needs to ask: Are Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia really the rhetorical company we want to keep? As conservatives, or as a nation?

Or to put it in a slightly less provocative manner: Conservatives are absolutely right that the left should stop tarring opponents with repellent and fantastic calamities. In fact, conservatives are so very correct on this matter that they really ought adopt the policy for themselves.

Megan McArdle, a Washington Post opinions columnist, is the author of "The Up Side of Down: Why Failing Well is the Key to Success."

## Trump the shameful gift of Gab? Spew hatred, make money.

By DAVID VON DREHLE  
The Washington Post

Those of us trying to remain sane amid the rising din of digital-age politics must keep one thing always front-of-mind: Extremism has become a business. There seems to be more of it for the simple reason that people think they can make a buck from it.

Media entrepreneurs of the 20th century amassed huge fortunes and great power by gathering the largest possible audiences. How? By finding happy mediums. Their 21st-century counterparts are more likely to follow a different path. They use the internet to assemble passionate audiences, not always large; niche audiences whose intensity will motivate them to subscribe, to donate, to purchase, to obsess. Coded algorithms operate along social networks 24/7, seeking out the communities of like-minded. Digital entrepreneurs figure out what we crave and then give us more of it — whether it is recipes, college football, inspirational memes or some sexual kink.

Andrew Torba's business model involves people who really enjoy talking about killing Jews and other vile ideals. As the company explains it, Torba in 2016 spotted "a unique opportunity to carve a niche in a massively underserved and unrepresented market." People who relished repugnant rants were being dumped from social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat. Torba's idea was simple: If Gab AI would allow their rants to flourish. Through subscriptions, tipping and other expressions of customer passion, Gab would capitalize on "a fragmentation process of the social media networking ecosystem into smaller niche communities with shared values and ideals."

This plan to cash in on extremism is

revealed with unusual clarity in Gab's annual report to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Yes, you read that correctly. A more traditional purveyor of inflammatory content might rely on wealthy like-minded patrons for private capital, as Breitbart did. Private companies need not disclose their funders, their finances or their downside risks.

Torba instead chose to sell shares to the public — a projected \$10 million worth of blockchain-enabled cryptoshares, dubbed "Gab tokens." Having built a nonpolitical business already in his young life (he reported that he was 27 when he came of Gab's 2015 filing), Torba understood the public disclosures this decision would entail.

Indeed, his report bears the hallmarks of an experienced legal and accounting team. In it, Torba identifies his target market as the "over 50 million conservative, libertarian, national and populist internet users from the United States and abroad" who might run afoul of "objectionable content" rules for mainstream social media. Early advocates included the former Breitbart provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos and dispossessed fans of the failing neo-Nazi website Stormfront.

Even if accurate — and I'm skeptical — Torba's estimate of 50 million users amounts to far less than 1 percent of the world's population — a narrow niche indeed. Only through digital technology could one hope to find them, connect them and make subscribers of them. Gab's progress thus far: "In just over 18 months, we have attracted more than 394,000 users from around the world who are creating over 1.5 million posts every month," the company reported.

Among those users and posters apparently was the ardent hater of Jews whose virtual rage and paranoia boiled over from

Torba's virtual cesspool into the massacre on Saturday at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. After months of lurid chatter with others who share his anti-Semitism, the Gabber felt called to act. "Screw your optics," he declared in his final post before allegedly murdering 11 people. "I'm going in."

It is clear from the SEC filing that Torba had weighed the risks involved in catering to such people. "We rely on third-party service providers to operate," the company noted. If Microsoft were to stop hosting Gab on its Azure platform; if Google Play were to join up in booting Gab from its web stores; if PayPal were to stop processing payment companies were to stop facilitating the flow of money, the result would be "a negative impact on our ability to grow our business."

That's exactly what happened. Mainstream companies dumped Gab, the site went dark, and Torba's plan to sell eight figures' worth of cybertokens is suddenly in doubt. Lost behind the same cloud of uncertainty is his vision for premium-priced Gab Pro content and subscriber-only chat rooms, along with his dreams for Gab TV.

In reply, Torba huffed about the First Amendment. But he also admitted, he claimed that criticism of his business served only to strengthen it. Gab had become "a nationally recognized brand as the home of free speech online."

But free speech is not the issue. Hate-mongers are as free as ever to say what's on their filthy minds. The question is whether Andrew Torba or anyone else can make bank by amplifying their hate. The noise will grow louder as long as the answer is yes.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Apple unveils new iPad Pro, MacBook Air

By GEOFFREY A. FOWLER  
The Washington Post

Two slabs of glass and metal, two different tales.

Apple shared its vision for the future of portable computers on Tuesday: a super powerful redesigned iPad Pro you operate with fingers and a stylus. But in case you're dubious a tablet can replace a laptop, Apple also unveiled a refresh of its classic MacBook Air.

That was the mixed message from the consumer tech giant's product event in New York City, a follow-up to its September launch of new iPhones and

**ANALYSIS** Apple Watches. I had a chance to try both the \$800 iPad Pro and \$1,200 MacBook Air after Apple's presentation. Each was given a beautiful new design and renewed purpose — and a 20 percent price increase.

The iPad Pro stole much of the spotlight because it's getting the most changes. The big touch screen can do things you can't on a Mac, but it may be the less-practical computer for many.

The new Pro takes design cues from the latest iPhones. The home button has been replaced with a swipe-up gesture that will be intuitive to anyone who's used an iPhone X. Instead of a fingerprint reader, it now unlocks with FaceID, Apple's facial-recognition technology, adapted for the iPad to work in both vertical and horizontal orientations. That was speedy in demonstrations but is limited to just two faces per device.

With the home button out of the way, Apple trimmed the iPad Pro's margins to make it slightly smaller and more comfortable in your hands. Like previous iPad Pros, the new devices come in



BERETO MATTHEWS/AP

An iPad Pro is reviewed after an event announcing new Apple products Tuesday in New York.

two sizes — 11-inch (\$800) and 12.9-inch (\$1,000) screen models, measured on the diagonal — the larger of which is about the size of an 8.5 by 11 sheet of paper. That's an improvement over the original 2015 iPad Pro, which was nearly the size of a box of Rice Krispies.

Most intriguing is Apple's evolving vision for what you can do with iPad Pro. Sold for more than double the price of a basic \$330 iPad, it's come a long way since being an oversized big brother to the iPhone. On stage, Apple described the iPad Pro as a "magical piece of glass that can be anything you need it to be."

Translation: The iPad Pro is a powerful, flexible computer that you can carry around. With a new Apple-designed processor and neural engine, Apple says the Pro is faster than 92 percent of portable PCs on the market today.

Can it really be "anything" you need it to be? With a keyboard case (\$200), it can stand upright

like a laptop, though it sits less rigidly on your lap than a traditional notebook. Creative types can scribble, paint and do other activities requiring precision right on the screen itself with a new Apple Pencil stylus (\$130) that magnetically attaches to the edge of the screen.

The iPad Pro can even plug into an external monitor (via a new USB-C style port also used to charge) to become a portable graphics workhorse. Executives from Adobe showed how it could be used to edit a gargantuan image with a new full-powered iPad version of its popular Photoshop application.

But you know what I quickly missed in my hands-on time? A mouse or trackpad. You still have to do most things on an iPad by touching its screen — no fun for precision tasks like spreadsheets. To me, that stops the Pro short of transforming into the kind of computer where I can sit upright

at a desk and burn through work. Call me old-fashioned.

If you share that concern too, Apple isn't about to lose the chance to sell you something else. Enter the refreshed MacBook Air, the beloved Apple laptop.

Apple breathed new life into the aging Air, but also increased the price from \$1,000 to \$1,200.

The standout feature is a higher-resolution 13-inch "retina" quality screen, which features four times the pixels. Despite that power-demanding leap, Apple says the Air's 12-hour battery life remains about the same — and superior to the more powerful MacBook Pro that costs \$100 more.

The new Air, which weighs 2.75 pounds, is also a quarter of a pound lighter than the MacBook Pro. When I held one in each hand, I could feel the difference.

The refresh also includes a fingerprint reader for securely unlocking the computer, making payments and logging into apps. But some won't be happy that the new model lacks the common USB-A style port and an SD-card reader. Instead, it has two smaller USB-C type ports that work for charging and plugging in external devices. (At least there's still a headphone jack.)

The Air has a bigger problem:

MARKET WATCH	
Oct. 30, 2018	
Dow Jones Industrials	431.72
	24,874.64
Nasdaq composite	111.36
	7,161.65
Standard & Poor's 500	41.38
	2,682.63
Russell 2000	29.33
	1,506.64

It looks expensive in the competitive world of Windows PCs and Chromebooks, yet has few totally unique hardware capabilities. While the Mac operating system has many advantages and loyal fans, the Air's improvements are mostly table stakes.

A decade ago when Apple co-founder Steve Jobs first introduced the Air by pulling it out of a manila envelope, he redefined the design of portable computers. If you want Apple's vision today, look to the iPad Pro.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 1)	\$1.1631
Dollar buys (Nov. 1)	69.8586
British pound	\$1.31
Japanese yen (Nov. 1)	110.00
South Korean won (Nov. 1)	1,110.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Bart)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.2759
Canada (Dollar)	1.3129
China (Yuan)	6.9790
Denmark (Krone)	6.5920
Egypt (Pound)	17.9175
Hong Kong	\$1.1319/0.8834
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8447
Hungary (Forint)	367.23
Israel (Shekel)	3.7188
Japan (Yen)	113.37
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3940
Norway (Krone)	8.4401
Philippines (Peso)	53.36
Poland (Zloty)	3.83
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7512
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3869
South Korea (Won)	1141.28
Switzerland	1.0065
Thailand (Baht)	33.17
Thailand (New Lira)	5.5446
Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

## INTEREST RATES

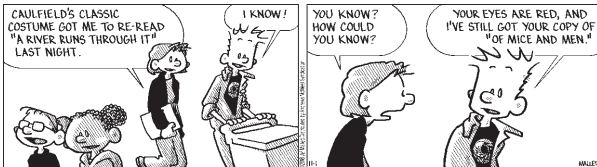
Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	2.75
3-month bill	2.30
30-year bond	3.36

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Frazz



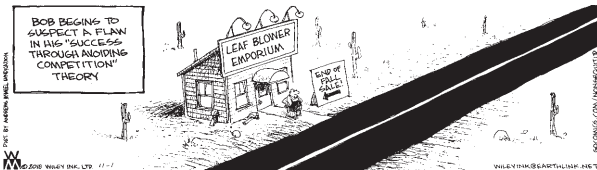
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



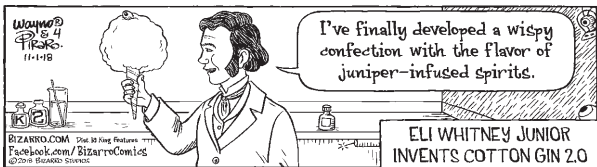
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18									19	20		
		21				22	23					
24	25	26			27				28		29	30
31					32					33		
34			35		36					37		
		38			39				40			
41	42						43			44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

ACROSS

- 1 Faxed  
5 Ado  
9 Squid squirt  
12 Designer  
13 Part of Q.E.D.  
14 Junior  
15 With no instrumental accompaniment  
17 Past  
18 Molds  
19 Bigwig  
21 UFO pilot  
22 Arbitrator  
24 Fuzzy image  
27 Clear the deck?  
28 Stately trees  
31 Goal  
32 Bankbook abbr.  
33 Zodiac feline  
34 Owed amount  
36 Ultramodernist  
37 Six-pack units  
38 Flat floaters  
40 Opposite of nyet  
41 Amazon's virtual assistant  
43 Tea type  
47 Crony  
48 Brain parts  
51 Tin Man's need  
52 Austen novel  
53 Body pics  
54 School support org.

- 55 Word of warning  
56 Attempt

DOWN

- 1 Hot tubs  
2 Apiece  
3 March  
Madness gp.  
4 Hat  
5 Bank charges  
6 Web address  
7 Pitcher Maglie  
8 Rise  
9 Actress  
Rossellini  
10 Scrapped mission  
11 Handle  
16 Favorite  
20 Bio stat  
22 Singer Norah  
23 Plotting  
24 Abysmal  
25 Fib  
26 Parasol  
27 Gum flavor  
29 Gents  
30 "Mayday!"  
35 Levy  
37 Insertion symbols  
39 Confronted  
40 Society  
newcomer  
41 Per person  
42 Cannes milk  
43 Warmth  
44 Humdrum  
45 Saxophone range  
46 Endure  
49 Punk rock  
offshoot  
50 LB's successor

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ROSY	PIEA	OBIT
OTTO	RAN	SOSO
BOOK	MARK	TOES
SEAEEL	LARGES	
	LEI	ELIA
BOB	TINT	ECLAT
IHOP	ESC	HOME
BOORS	AHS	OPT
	MONK	ITA
RATTLE	CARTEL	
ALOE	BOOBTUBE	
SAWS	AIR	IRAN
HINT	BLY	ENYA

11-1

CRYPTOQUIP

"BIBSGI BEXIIE" GJVVIE  
CSJHPYIA EM THUIBETOSEI  
EYI BJXRSPI MR EYI XIA

VC SHIE: GSXB OX MUIX.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE DEVOUT CATHOLIC GUY WANTED TO BUY SEVERAL PRAYER BEADS, HE WENT ROSARY SHOPPING.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals S




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- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
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Reader Letters:	letters@stripes.com	letters@stripes.com		letters@stripes.com

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### Announcements 040

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Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classifieds advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

### Automotive 140

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Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

### Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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US SPEC Vehicles  
[www.directautosalles.com](http://www.directautosalles.com)  
Free Europe-wide delivery

### Travel 1000

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Hotel Forsthaus Oberau 8 km  
N of Garmisch Hot tub/sauna  
39eur PP, DBL, occ. free brikt,  
dogs welcome. 98924-9120  
[www.forsthaus-oberau.de](http://www.forsthaus-oberau.de)

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# SCOREBOARD

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myafn.net

## Tennis

### Elite Trophy Zhuhai

**Tuesday**  
Hengjin International Tennis Center  
Zhuhai, China  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor  
Round Robin

**Singles**  
Kaziatkina (1), Russia, def. Wang Qiang (1), China, 6-1, 2-6, 7-5.

**Standings:** Kaziatkina 1-0 (sets 1-2), Madison Keys 0-0 (0-0), Wang Qiang 0-0 (0-0), Bartly 0-0 (0-0).

**Standings:** Anastasiya Sevastova 0-0 (0-0), Garbine Muguruza 0-0 (0-0), Zhang Shuai 0-0 (0-0).

**Orchid**  
Aryna Sabalenka (3), Belarus, def. Ashleigh Barty (0), Australia, 6-4, 6-1.

**Standings:** Sabalenka 1-0 (0-0), Garbine Muguruza 0-0 (0-0), Bartly 0-0 (0-0), Wang Qiang 0-0 (0-0).

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**Standings:** Sabalenka 1-0 (0-0), Garbine Muguruza 0-0 (0-0), Bartly 0-0 (0-0), Wang Qiang 0-0 (0-0).

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## Tuesday's scores

**EAST**  
Hampilton 51, Miami (Ohio) 42

Kent 35, Bowling Green 28

**Midwest**  
Temple (5-3) at UIC (1-7)

**South**  
Illinois (5-3) at Michigan (4-3)

N. Illinois (5-3) at W. Michigan (6-3)

**Friday, Nov. 1**  
Penn (5-2) at Cornell (3-4)

**East**  
Pittsburgh (4-4) at Virginia (6-2)

W. Kentucky (1-7) at Middle Tennessee (5-3)

**Far West**  
Colorado (5-3) at Arizona (4-5)

**Saturday, Nov. 2**  
Air Force (3-3) at Army (6-2)

Columbia (4-3) at Harvard (3-4)

Morris (1-0) at Sacred Heart (5-3)

Princeton (5-3) at St. Francis (0-5)

Valparaiso (1-7) at Lafayette (4-4)

Delaware (5-3) at Wagner (2-6)

Holy Cross (2-6) at Marist (4-4)

Bucknell (1-7) at Lehigh (1-7)

Colgate (0-6) at Fordham (1-7)

St. John's (1-7) at Monmouth (0-6)

**South**  
Louisville (5-3) at Navy (2-6)

James Madison (6-2) at New Hampshire (2-6)

Princeton (5-3) at Princeton (7-0)

Liberty (1-6) at Yale (4-4)

Brigham Young (5-3) at Navy (2-6)

**West**  
Texas A&M (5-3) at Auburn (5-3)

Louisiana Tech (4-4) at Clemson (5-3)

North Carolina (5-3) at Wake Forest (4-4)

Virginia Tech (4-4) at North Carolina (4-4)

Chattanooga (6-2) at Furman (3-4)

McNeese (5-3) at Tennessee (0-6)

**Monday, Nov. 5**  
Norfolk State (3-4) at NC A&T (6-2)

North Carolina (5-3) at Wake Forest (4-4)

Rhode Island (5-3) at Elon (4-4)

Virginia Tech (4-4) at North Carolina (4-4)

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Virginia Tech (4-4) at North Carolina (4-4)

Chattanooga (6-2) at Furman (3-4)

## Pro football

**NFL**  
American Conference

**East**  
New England 6 2 0 750 239 185

Miami 4 0 0 570 214 179

Philadelphia 4 0 0 570 214 179

Buffalo 2 6 0 250 87 200

**West**  
Houston 5 3 0 625 197 167

Indianapolis 3 5 0 375 134 107

Indianapolis 3 5 0 375 134 107

**North**  
Pittsburgh 4 2 1 643 204 172

Baltimore 4 2 1 643 204 172

Baltimore 4 2 1 643 204 172

**West**  
Kansas City 7 1 0 875 290 205

Denver 3 5 0 375 134 107

Oakland 3 5 0 375 134 107

**National Conference**  
**East**  
Washington 5 2 0 714 146 134

Philadelphia 4 0 0 500 178 156

Dallas 4 0 0 429 123 105

N.Y. Giants 4 0 0 429 123 105

**South**  
New Orleans 6 1 0 867 234 183

Atlanta 3 4 0 429 123 105

Atlanta 3 4 0 429 123 105

**North**  
Chicago 4 2 1 571 194 144

Minnesota 3 4 1 563 197 145

Green Bay 3 4 1 563 197 145

**West**  
L.A. Rams 8 1 0 1,000 265 173

Seattle 4 3 0 571 171 131

San Francisco 7 1 0 125 236

**Thursday's games**  
Houston Oilers at Miami Dolphins 18

Philadelphia Eagles at Jacksonville 18

Kansas City 24, N.Y. Jets 10

Pittsburgh 33, Cleveland 18

Atlanta 34, Baltimore 21

Washington 20, N.Y. Giants 13

Cincinnati 28, Denver 34

Indianapolis 42, Oakland 28

San Francisco 27, Tampa Bay 15

L.A. Rams 29, Green Bay 21

New Orleans 30, Minnesota 20

Arizona 38, Chicago 17

Chargers, Atlanta

**Monday's game**  
New England 25, Buffalo 6

**Thursday, Nov. 8**  
Oakland at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 4**  
N.Y. Jets at Miami

Oakland at Washington

Atlanta at Minnesota

Kansas City at Cleveland

Baltimore at Carolina

San Francisco at Buffalo

L.A. Chargers at St. Louis

Houston at Denver

San Francisco at New Orleans

Green Bay at New England

Open: Indianapolis, Arizona, N.Y. Giants, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Cincinnati

**Monday, Nov. 5**  
Tennessee at Dallas

**Calendar**  
Dec. 30 - Regular season ends

Jan. 6 - Wild-card playoff round

Jan. 12 - Divisional playoffs

Jan. 26 - NFC and AFC championships

Jan. 27 - Pro Bowl, Orlando, Fla.

**Home-and-home**  
Pro soccer

**MLS playoffs**  
Knockout round

**Eastern Conference**  
Philadelphia at New York City FC

Seattle at D.C. United

**Western Conference**  
Columbus at D.C. United

Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC

**Conference semifinals**  
Home-and-home

**First leg**  
New York City FC at Seattle

**Second leg**  
Seattle at New York City FC

**Eastern Conference**  
Seattle at D.C. United

**Western Conference**  
Seattle at D.C. United

**Conference semifinals**  
Seattle at D.C. United

**First leg**  
Seattle at D.C. United

**Second leg**  
D.C. United at Seattle

## AUTO RACING

# Logano put it all on line, as he should have

**T**ake a deep breath and rewatch "Days of Thunder" a couple hundred times to put some perspective on Joey Logano's latest dustup with another driver.

### In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER/AP

Logano sparked a storm of controversy at Martinsville Speedway when he bumped reigning series champion Martin Truex Jr. out of the lead to claim victory. It wasn't any old win, either; it qualified Logano for NASCAR's championship-deciding race at the end of the season.

At this stage of the season, a victory is the golden ticket to Homestead-Miami Speedway's winner-take-all finale. It is really that simple. There are eight drivers vying for four spots — and one was dangling in front of Truex and Logano on Sunday.

First things first: Logano maybe wasn't expected to make the final four, not this season. His only other win was at Talladega Superspeedway and Team Penske has been overshadowed on the track by Ford partner Stewart-Haas Racing. The regular season was so dominated by Truex, Kyle Busch and Kevin Harvick it has just been assumed the so-called "Big 3" would gobble up three of the four championship berths.

So for Logano to make it to the finale, he needed to be perfect for three races or in position to win one.

There he was at Martinsville, out front for a race-high 309 of the 500 laps, raced extraordinarily hard in the final stretch because Penske teammate Brad Keselowski was glued to his bumper. He had a door-to-door battle going with Truex for much of the final 10 laps. The racing was clean and Truex was an on-track gentleman, a sportsman worthy to be called champion, in taking the lead from Logano.

But Logano had to have that win. It was his best and perhaps only chance to qualify for the finale, and that chance came on the final lap.

He pulled a bump-and-run and figured he'd let the chips fall as they may.

The move worked and Logano punched his ticket to Miami. An infuriated Truex must try again this weekend to return to the finale.

The bump was a throwback move to when drivers used their race cars as muscle, and they created racing that captivated its audience. It was the jaw-dropping, white-knuckled bumping and banging that made "Days of Thunder" a pop culture sensation



STEVE HELBER/AP

Joey Logano, right, and Martin Truex Jr. make contact as they approach the finish line Sunday at the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race at Martinsville Speedway. Logano used the bump-and-run to get past Truex for the win and a spot in the series finale.

**'He may have won the battle, but he ain't winning the damn war.'**

**Martin Truex Jr.**

On Cup Series driver Joey Logano's move that cost Truex a victory

and created an unrealistic expectation of NASCAR racing.

But it's quintessential NASCAR, not all that different from what Logano did to Matt Kenseth to win a playoff race at Kansas three years ago.

In this latest instance, Logano knocked Truex out of the way, slipped past him and straightened out his wiggling car enough to cross the finish line in first. Truex's car went sideways and Denny Hamlin stole second place from him.

The consequences were immediate. Logano was booed, Truex joined the jeering from pit road and the crew chiefs exchanged angry words.

Truex vowed to prevent Logano from stealing his crown: "He may have won the battle, but he ain't winning the damn war."

Logano car owner Roger Penske wasn't pleased to learn Truex called the bump-and-run a "cheap shot" and he was unusually feisty in his rebuttal.

"He's a racer and should know better than to say that," Penske said. "That's as clean a shot as you can have in a race like this. We want to go to Miami. Joey ran a great race. As far as I'm concerned, that's just a comment that I don't think we deserve. We'll race him day after day."

Everything was on the line for Logano and he'd have been lambasted for not trying something — anything, really — to try to win. The second-guessing if he'd tried nothing would have lasted the entire third round of the playoffs or until he won a race. If Logano wasn't going to put it all on the line, then what's the point of even getting into the race car each week?



STEVE HELBER/AP

Joey Logano gets out of his car as he celebrates after winning Sunday at Martinsville Speedway.

If more drivers raced the way Logano did on that lap, people might start watching again.



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**X**  
EXCHANGE

**REX**



**Thunder guard Russell Westbrook, right, drives around Clippers guard Patrick Beverley in the first half Tuesday in Oklahoma City.**

# Tempers flare in OKC win over LA

He didn't directly address Beverley's action on Tuesday.

"I have no comment on it," Westbrook said. "I just know that we won."

Beverly felt like he did nothing wrong, and said his reputation

its winning streak to four games. **Grizzlies 107, Wizards 95:** Garrett Temple scored 20 points, Marc Gasol and Mike Conley added 19 apiece and host Memphis sent Washington to its fourth straight loss.

ton 18 (Paul 9). Total Fouls—Portland 19  
Houston 25. A—18,055 (18,500).

Raptors guard Kyle Lowry, top, from the Charlotte Hornets' Kemba Walker, bottom, as they battle during the

**s over 76ers forward Robert  
second half Tuesday in Toronto.**



Raptors guard Kyle Lowry, top, steps over 76ers forward Robert Covington as they battle during the second half Tuesday in Toronto.

## NHL

## Scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv	OTL
Tampa Bay	11	8	2	1	17	41	24	30	3
Toronto	12	8	4	0	16	42	37	30	0
Boston	11	6	4	1	13	37	29	29	1
Montreal	11	6	3	2	14	34	29	29	0
Buffalo	11	5	5	1	11	37	29	29	0
Ottawa	11	4	5	2	10	30	36	44	4
Detroit	12	3	7	2	8	30	46	36	4
Florida	10	3	7	0	6	28	39	39	0

Metropolitan Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv	OTL
Pittsburgh	11	6	4	1	13	36	28	28	1
N.Y. Islanders	11	6	4	1	13	36	28	28	1
Carolina	11	6	4	1	13	36	28	28	1
Washington	10	5	5	0	10	29	37	37	0
Columbus	11	6	5	0	12	39	43	43	0
New Jersey	9	9	1	0	11	31	28	28	0
Philadelphia	12	5	7	0	10	35	48	48	0
N.Y. Rangers	10	3	7	0	9	32	41	41	0

## Western Conference

Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv	OTL
Nashville	12	9	3	0	18	42	29	29	0
Minnesota	12	8	4	0	16	32	34	34	0
Colorado	12	7	3	2	16	41	27	27	0
Winnipeg	12	7	4	1	15	35	32	32	0
Chicago	12	6	4	2	14	31	41	43	0
Dallas	11	6	5	0	12	34	30	30	0
St. Louis	10	3	7	0	9	36	39	39	0

Pacific Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Sv	OTL
San Jose	13	7	5	1	15	41	36	36	0
Calgary	13	7	5	1	15	41	42	42	0
Vancouver	13	7	6	0	14	36	42	42	0
Edmonton	13	7	6	0	14	36	42	42	0
Arizona	11	6	5	0	12	31	31	31	0
Anaheim	11	6	5	0	12	31	31	31	0
Vegas	12	5	6	1	11	27	34	34	0
Los Angeles	10	3	7	0	9	36	39	39	0

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Calgary, 3; Toronto, 1

Vancouver, 5; Minnesota, 2

Tuesday's games

N.Y. Islanders @ Pittsburgh 3-0

Detroit @ Columbus 3-0

Calgary @ Buffalo 1, OT

St. Louis @ Carolina 3-0

Dallas @ Montreal 1-0

San Jose @ New Jersey 3-0

Nashville @ Vegas 1-0

Minnesota @ Edmonton 3-0

Arizona @ Anaheim 2-0

Wednesday's games

Chicago @ Vancouver 3-0

Thursday's games

Winnipeg vs. Florida at Helsinki

N.Y. Islanders @ Pittsburgh 3-0

Dallas @ Toronto

Washington @ Montreal

Tampa Bay @ Buffalo at Ottawa

Vegas at St. Louis

Calgary @ Edmonton

Philadelphia @ Los Angeles

Florida vs. Winnipeg at Helsinki

Carolina at Arizona

Friday's games

Florida vs. Winnipeg at Helsinki

Carolina at Arizona

Saturday's games

N.Y. Islanders @ Pittsburgh 3-0

Dallas @ Toronto

Washington @ Montreal

Tampa Bay @ Buffalo at Ottawa

Vegas at St. Louis

Calgary @ Edmonton

Philadelphia @ Los Angeles

Florida vs. Winnipeg at Helsinki

Carolina at Arizona

Sunday's games

N.Y. Islanders @ Pittsburgh 3-0

Dallas @ Toronto

Washington @ Montreal

Tampa Bay @ Buffalo at Ottawa

Vegas at St. Louis

Calgary @ Edmonton

Philadelphia @ Los Angeles

Florida vs. Winnipeg at Helsinki

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## No surprises atop first CFP rankings

Top 4: Alabama, Clemson, LSU, Notre Dame, but key games on Saturday will change order

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
Associated Press

If you don't like the first College Football Playoff selection committee rankings, don't worry. Saturday's slate of huge games guarantees major changes are coming next week.

Alabama, Clemson, LSU and Notre Dame were the top four teams in the initial CFP rankings Tuesday night.

After meeting for a day and a half at a hotel outside Dallas, the 13-member selection committee released the first of its five weekly top 25s before the four-team field is set for the semifinals on Dec. 2.

Michigan was fifth, followed by Georgia and Oklahoma. Washington State was eighth, the highest-ranked Pac-12 team. Kentucky was ninth.

Of course, the final rankings are the only ones that matter, but the playoff picture will be reshaped this weekend. Four games matching top-20 teams are on tap Saturday, including Alabama at LSU and Georgia at Kentucky.

West Virginia, 13th in the CFP, is in Texas, which is 17th. Michigan hosts Penn State, which came in at 14.

The first four teams were no surprise. The same teams are Nos. 1-4 in the latest Associated Press poll, except with Notre Dame third and LSU fourth.

Oregon athletic director Rob Mullens, who is in his first season as committee chairman, said LSU's FBS-leading six victories against teams with winning records gave the Tigers the edge over undefeated Notre Dame. The Irish play at Northwestern (5-3) on Saturday.

UCF was the highest ranked team from outside the Power Five conferences at 12th. The highest ranked team from the so-called Group of Five conferences at the end of the regular season is guaranteed a spot in the New Year's Six bowls. The Knights, riding a 20-game winning streak, earned that spot last year, beat Auburn in the Peach Bowl and proclaimed themselves national champions.

UCF has yet to beat a team that currently has a winning record. The strength of schedule held the Knights back, Mullens said. "But you balance that against what you see when you watch the games," he added.

Last season, UCF started 18th and rose to 12th by the final rankings.

## History lesson

If form holds, two of the top four teams in the first CFP rankings of the season will go on to play in

the national semifinals.

Coaches began downplaying the significance of the rankings even before they were revealed on national television.

"I didn't even know that was tonight. I didn't realize that was going on," Georgia coach Kirby Smart told reporters. "But I should have talked to my team about that. I didn't bring it up to them. So who knows what they'll be thinking tonight."

Ranking teams is a time-honored tradition in college football, going back to first Associated Press poll in 1936. But what, if anything, can be learned from the first four years of CFP rankings?

Of the 16 teams the committee ranked in the top four of its initial rankings from 2014-17, half made the playoff. No team ranked third in the first CFP rankings has ever made the playoff.

The very first committee rankings, in 2014, had just one eventual playoff team. They included three teams from the Southeastern Conference (though not the one that eventually made the one that had lost with Florida State.

That year, the committee first showed its willingness to rank a team that had lost a game ahead of an unbeaten team, like it did Tuesday with LSU and Notre Dame.

In 2014, unbeaten defending champion Florida State dropped to No. 3 behind once-beaten Oregon in the committee's third rankings. It seemed to send a signal the committee would be different from traditional polls that tended to honor win-loss record above all. The second-to-last rankings had Florida State at fourth, behind three teams that had already lost. The Seminoles went into the Rose Bowl semifinal as the No. 3 seed and lost to Oregon.

Among the eight teams over the past four seasons that were part of the initial committee top four but did not make the playoff, only one was unranked on selection Sunday. Texas A&M in 2016 was somewhat of a surprising No. 4, and then proceeded to lose three of its final four games.

The playoff team that made the longest climb from first-committee ranking to final was Ohio State, which started 16th in 2014 and made the semifinals as the fourth seed—and won the championship. Iowa, which has already lost two games, was No. 16 in Tuesday's rankings.

Last two seasons, none of the eventual playoff teams were ranked worse than sixth (Ohio State in 2016) in the committee's first ranking.



Don FERIA/AP

Washington State players celebrate after kicker Blake Mazza made the winning field goal against Stanford on Saturday. The Cougars are the only one-loss Pac-12 team left.

## Pac-12 coaches: Nine-game conference season takes toll

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

There's talk every season about how the Pac-12 cannibalizes itself.

Just last week, Oregon coach Mario Cristobal used the word following the Ducks' 34-20 loss to Washington State in Pullman. Then Oregon fell 44-15 on the road at Arizona on Saturday, which was marked by dramatic conference upsets.

After the chaos, the Cougars were still the only one-loss Pac-12 team left, and they have only a longshot of making the College Football Playoff.

Conference coaches often point to parity in the Pac-12 as the reason that it's difficult for a league team to rise to the top of the national conversation. And yes, it seems antithetical that parity might be hurting the Pac-12, but the heart of the issue is the schedule.

No Pac-12 school has played in the CFP championship game since Oregon faced Ohio State following the 2014-15 season, the first year of the playoff. The ACC and the SEC are the only conferences to have teams represented in the playoffs each year since. Coincidentally, the ACC and SEC play an eight-game conference schedule while the other Power 5 conferences play nine games within the conference.

The nine-game league schedule has been criticized because it's obviously more difficult, and there's less likelihood that a team will finish undefeated — which lowers the odds of getting coveted playoff berths. That challenges a conference where some key matchups are played late.

Stanford coach David Shaw pointed to how some Pac-12 teams will play a grueling stretch of consecutive conference games without an off week, while other conferences schedule less taxing nonconference games later in the year. Late season nonconference games in the Pac-12 tend to be against higher-profile opponents, like Notre Dame, he said.

"My point, for the longest time, is to make sure all the conferences have very similar ways to schedule," he said. "That's the only way we can truly evaluate or compare."

Washington coach Chris Petersen agreed the

tough schedule has an impact, but said ultimately the playoffs should be expanded to include the possibility of a two-loss team making the field.

"Well, I think if there's that much parity, and you know you're going to have a team with at least two losses and you're out, it definitely hurts you. The answer is, if you're going to take a league that's got a lot of parity and you think it's still a really good league, you've got to take the league champions," he said. "You've got to expand that situation, but we're not there yet."

Parity becomes a focus on a day like last Saturday, when upsets ruled.

■ Oregon State pulled off the biggest, winning a conference game for the first time since 2016 with a 41-34 overtime victory on the road at Colorado.

■ Unranked Arizona downed the visiting Ducks, giving them No. 19 Oregon back-to-back losses and three total league losses.

■ Arizona State toppled USC 38-35, ending the Trojans' 19-game winning streak at the Coliseum and edging Clay Helton closer to the hotseat.

■ California defeated Washington 12-10 without scoring an offensive touchdown.

■ Washington State's 41-38 win over Stanford was also technically an upset because the Cardinal were a 3-point favorite at home.

Cougars coach Mike Leach also pointed to the nine-game conference slate, while also suggesting the playoffs should be expanded. But he also said he believes the Pac-12 is really that good.

"I think our conference is the hardest one to win in every week," he said on Tuesday's Pac-12 teleconference.

Ultimately, that parity may end up hurting Washington State because losses are dropping the Cougars' conference opponents out of the rankings. The Pac-12 had five teams in the AP Top 25 last week, and now there are just two.

The taxing nine-game conference schedule could be hurting the Pac-12 more generally in the postseason. Last year, the league went 1-8 in bowl games.

Critics also point to frequent Thursday and Friday night games, as well as late-night Saturday starts, that are dictated by the Pac-12's television contracts.

Utah coach Kyle Whittingham, whose team popped up to No. 16 in the rankings with a win over UCLA on Friday night, said he can't concern himself too much with how the Pac-12 stacks up against the other conferences.

"Don't really worry about that to be honest with you," Whittingham told reporters Monday. "The Pac-12 is competitive and everybody is beating each other up, but our world is the Pac-12 and so I don't really focus on any other stuff."



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS



ZACK WAISGRAS, THE DAILY PROGRESS/AP

Virginia takes the field before the game against North Carolina on Saturday in Charlottesville, Va. Virginia beat North Carolina 31-21.

## Back in Top 25, Cavs focused on winning division

By HANK KURZ JR.  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Now that the Cavaliers are ranked, bowl eligible and have announced that winning the ACC's Coastal Division is their goal, they want to maintain the focus that has carried them to a three-game winning streak.

Coach Bronco Mendenhall would rather the 23rd-ranked Cavaliers keep some things to themselves, but appreciates their excitement, too.

"I'm never really comfortable about promising things in advance, but I don't have a problem with establishing and framing goals," he said Monday, one day after Virginia moved into the Top 25 for the first time since 2011. "I think in that moment when they're saying, 'We want the Coastal,' I think it was just simply some clarity on it is possible. We have a real chance. We're acknowledging that."

Virginia (6-2, 4-1 ACC) will face another Coastal Division foe on the rise when Pittsburgh (4-4, 3-1) visits on Friday night. The Panthers are coming off a wild 54-45 victory against Duke, a game in which they ran for 484 yards. They also have won three straight and four of their last five meetings with the Cavaliers.

It will be strength vs. strength when the Panthers have the ball. They average 228 rushing yards, while Virginia allows just 113. In their last two games, the Cavaliers yielded just 58 rushing yards on 27 attempts by Duke, and just 66 yards on 22 attempts against North Carolina.

Free safety Joey Blount relishes the opportunity to be a big part of the solution against Pitt, and to see how the Cavaliers stack up.

"It just makes you have to come up and play the run harder than ever," he said. "It just makes me more of a factor in the run



Pittsburgh (4-4)  
at No. 23 Virginia (6-2)  
AFN-Sports2

12:30 a.m. Saturday CET  
8:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

game, playing inside the box as well as being aware of the passing and play action stuff. Pitt's going to have a really good scheme for us and we just have to be prone to violence for Friday."

Unlike last season, when becoming bowl eligible for the first time since 2011 set off a wild clubhouse celebration, the Cavaliers were subdued after beating the Tar Heels and spoke of how, to a man, they expected to repeat that this season and set preseason goals that would be far more significant to reach.

"We want to win the Coastal. We want to go to the ACC championship," Blount said. "People just set us into a standard of UVA football is this, UVA football is that. We were ranked last I think, or something [in the preseason ACC poll], and I think we came out and proved ourselves that we're not. We're as good as we want to be."

A year ago, after starting 5-1, the Cavaliers lost two straight and five of their last six. This year, they resolved not to let it happen again.

"I think where we are as a team right now just shows that we can really play with whoever we want to play with," Blount said. "We're our own enemies right now. We're the only people that can hold each other back. So I think from last year we talked about it before, it's just what we want to do."

### Briefly

# 3 days after Series gem, Price says he'll stay put

Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston Red Sox left-hander David Price will stay with the team he led to a World Series title, declining a contract option on Wednesday that would have enabled him to become a free agent.

Price announced his decision on the field at Fenway Park before a victory parade, saying he came to Boston to win and that's what the Red Sox did.

Price will earn \$127 million over the next four years under the seven-year, \$217 million contract he signed with Boston before the 2016 season that was at the time the richest ever for a pitcher. He has gone 31-19 with a 3.74 ERA in three seasons with the Red Sox, and this October he finally pitched like an ace in the postseason as well.

"To be able to come out on top and to be able to contribute in October, that's why I play the game," he said after getting the win in the World Series clincher, a 5-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday night that brought the Red Sox their fourth title in 15 years — and Price his first championship ring.

"My confidence was never altered through however many seasons I've been to the playoffs, however many times I've failed in October, however many times I failed in the regular season or against the Yankees," he said. "I always had belief in myself and my abilities. To be able to come through on this stage and in October for myself and for my teammates, I know I can do it now. And it's always a good feeling to have. It's just good to know."

After losing the first nine playoff decisions of his career, Price was the winning pitcher in the AL Championship Series clincher against Houston, and then he won his first career World Series start, Game 2 against Los Angeles. He got two outs in Boston's 18-inning Game 3 loss, then started on three days' rest and delivered seven innings of three-hit ball to help eliminate the Dodgers.

In other MLB news:

■ The Chicago Cubs have declined a \$10 million team option on right-hander Brandon Kintzler, who now must decide this week whether to exercise a \$5 million player option.

■ A 34-year-old right-hander, Kintzler was 3-3 with a 4.60 ERA for Washington and the Cubs, who acquired him July 31 for minor league right-hander Jhon Romero. He had a \$5 million base salary.

■ Milwaukee Brewers third baseman Mike Moustakas is becoming a free agent again, and so is reliever Joakim Soria.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Boston pitcher David Price opted to pass up an opportunity to become a free agent in order to remain with the Red Sox.

Moustakas declined a \$15 million mutual option Tuesday.

Soria declined a \$10 million mutual option and gets a \$1 million buyout, completing a \$25 million, three-year contract he agreed to with the Royals in December 2015. The right-hander was acquired from the Chicago White Sox on July 26 and was 3-1 with a 4.09 ERA in 26 games with the Brewers.

### Notre Dame No. 1 in women's college poll

NEW YORK — Muffet McGraw and Notre Dame start the new season where they left off — atop women's college basketball.

The Irish were the unanimous No. 1 team in The Associated Press women's basketball preseason poll that was released Wednesday.

The defending national champions received all 31 first-place votes from a national media panel. It's only the second time that McGraw's team has been the preseason No. 1 team. It also occurred in 2016. The Irish return four starters from last season's team that battled through a bunch of ACL injuries before winning the school's second national championship.

UConn was second in the poll, ending a run of 34 consecutive

weeks at No. 1. The Huskies have been in the top five every week since Jan. 29, 2007.

Oregon followed the Huskies, earning the best ranking in program history.

Baylor and Louisville were fourth and fifth.

Mississippi State, Stanford, Oregon State, Maryland and South Carolina rounded out the top 10 teams.

In other college basketball news:

■ Third-ranked Gonzaga will be without forward Killian Tillie for up to eight weeks after the junior had surgery for a stress fracture in his ankle.

Gonzaga coach Mark Few announced Tillie's injury on Tuesday. Tillie re-aggravated the ankle injury during fall practice and additional imaging revealed the stress fracture.

■ Wisconsin forward Aleem Ford is out indefinitely with a knee injury, a blow to the Badgers' frontcourt depth. Ford will have surgery, but is expected to return later this season, the team said on Wednesday.

The 6-foot-8 Ford figured to be the first forward off the bench for coach Greg Gard's team. He averaged 5.8 points and shot a team-high 40.9 percent from three-point range in playing all 33 games, including 20 starts.

## NFL



NELL REDMOND/AP

The Baltimore Ravens' Joe Flacco, left, is sacked by the Carolina Panthers' Dante Jackson during the first half of Sunday's game in Charlotte, N.C. The Panthers won 36-21, dropping the Ravens to 4-4.

# Skidding Ravens hoping for surge in second half

By David Ginsburg  
Associated Press

**I**OWINGS MILLS, Md. — The Baltimore Ravens' offense has also struggled. Joe Flacco threw two interceptions, Alex Collins fumbled immediately after taking a handoff and the Ravens had another game in which they finished with a negative turnover differential.

“You can't leave a guy unblocked and [let him] run into the backfield early in the game when you have a chance for a good play,” Harbaugh lamented. “Those end up being devastating plays. Those are the mistakes that we've got to clean up.”

After that game in Tennessee, the Ravens had won three of four to move to 4-2. Now, they're just trying to remain upbeat.

“We are obviously not in the most ideal situation possible, but we still have eight games left,” Flacco said. “There is obviously a bigger threat now to let this stuff affect you mentally, let it affect the team and how we are jelling together. So we have to combat that just by being ourselves and being as tough as we possibly can.”

The Ravens know they have to look forward, not back. Yet Flacco acknowledged that a 4-4 record at this stage is disappointing. “Overall, when you look at it, you would think that we are pretty good,” he said. “There is no lying in this league. You are what your record says you are, and that's the bottom line.”

“Yeah, people are playing completely different,” Harbaugh said. “People aren't going to drop-back pass and just let us rush the quarterback in coverage. So I think that's the main thing. The game plans we've gotten in the last two weeks have been very different than the ones we've seen on tape.”



Pittsburgh Steelers (4-2-1)  
Baltimore Ravens (4-4)

AFN-Sports2  
7 p.m. Sunday CET  
2 a.m. Monday JKT

way it's supposed to be set up and organized the way it's supposed to be organized from a big-picture standpoint.”

The Ravens were soaring just two weeks ago, when they rang up 11 sacks in a 21-0 rout of Tennessee. Last week, the defense got to New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees only once, and Cam Newton escaped Sunday without being sacked.

Clearly, the opposition is making adjustments to offset the once-ferocious pass rush.

“The second half begins Sunday with a home matchup against the AFC North-leading Steelers (4-2-1), Baltimore's biggest rival. If the Ravens are going to right the ship, this would be the ideal place to start.”

“It's perfect timing. It's a game we need this week,” Harbaugh said. “I think it's all set up the

the Baltimore Ravens' offense has also struggled. Joe Flacco threw two interceptions, Alex Collins fumbled immediately after taking a handoff and the Ravens had another game in which they finished with a negative turnover differential.

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## Leaders

AFC										NFC															
Quarterbacks					Yds					TD	Int	Quarterbacks					Yds					TD	Int		
Mahomes, KC	285	187	2535	26	6	Cousins, MIN	241	151	2521	16	4														
Roethlisberger, PIT	297	194	2290	14	7	Conner, PIT	253	171	2425	17	5														
Flacco, BAL	342	209	2259	12	5	Manning, NYG	315	215	2377	8	6														
Brady, NE	295	199	2200	16	7	Ryan, ATL	267	187	2335	15	4														
Luck, IND	342	225	2187	23	8	A. Rodgers, GB	305	193	2338	16	5														
Watson, HOU	261	168	2176	15	7	Stafford, DET	243	188	1990	14	1														
Kenneth, DEN	288	184	2110	10	10	Trubisky, CHI	257	185	2184	15	4														
Dalton, CIN	292	185	2102	17	8	Brees, NO	255	184	2184	15	4														
D. Carr, OAK	261	188	2027	10	10	Wentz, PHI	258	158	1788	12	8														
Bortles, JAC	290	175	2021	10	8	Newton, CAR	238	146	1613	13	8														
Rushers					Rushers					Rushers					Rushers										
Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD	Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD	Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD	Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD						
Conner, PIT	127	599	4.7	30	9	Guiley, LA	169	800	4.7	29	11	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
K. Hunt, KC	134	592	4.4	45	5	E. Elliott, DAL	127	587	4.6	41	4	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Lindsay, SD	93	531	5.7	53	3	A. Peterson, WAS	127	587	4.6	41	4	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Mixon, CIN	105	509	4.8	4	4	Barkey, NYG	111	519	4.7	68	5	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
L. Miller, HOU	113	504	4.5	58	2	D. Adams, GB	105	487	4.7	61	4	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Crowell, NYJ	94	484	5.1	71	5	K. Johnson, DET	77	466	6.1	71	5	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
M. Gordon, LAC	91	466	5.1	34	6	Carson, SEA	102	473	4.7	61	4	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
G. Hyde, ARI	84	385	4.6	32	0	McCaffrey, CAR	92	423	4.6	45	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Caro, MIA	114	382	3.4	22	5	Kamaara, NYG	92	408	4.4	49	7	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
						Dav. Johnson, ARI	137	408	4.4	49	7	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Receivers					Receivers					Receivers					Receivers										
No	Yds	Av	LG	TD	No	Yds	Av	LG	TD	No	Yds	Av	LG	TD	No	Yds	Av	LG	TD						
D. Hopkins, HOU	53	789	14.9	69	1	Thielen, MIN	74	925	12.5	68	6	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
T. Hill, KC	44	705	16.0	75	1	Ju. Jones, ATL	63	812	15.3	58	5	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
A. Green, CIN	45	687	15.3	38	1	Beckham, NYG	52	816	15.7	62	7	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
E. Sanders, DEN	50	660	13.2	64	3	M. Evans, TAM	47	670	16.7	62	7	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Kelece, KC	44	642	14.6	43	4	D. Adams, GB	52	670	12.9	51	4	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Boyd, CIN	49	620	12.7	49	0	R. Woods, LA	61	644	10.6	36	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Smith-Schuster, PIT	46	594	12.9	67	2	Michael Thomas, NOR	47	617	13.1	51	4	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Jo. Brown, BAL	31	586	18.9	71	4	Erz, PHI	64	674	10.6	36	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
A. Brown, PIT	46	552	12.0	48	0	W. Hill, MIN	35	643	18.4	52	6	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
J. Landry, CLE	49	528	10.8	39	2	De. Jackson, TAM	35	643	18.4	52	6	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Punters					Punters					Punters					Punters										
No	Yds	Av	LG	TD	No	Yds	Av	LG	TD	No	Yds	Av	LG	TD	No	Yds	Av	LG	TD						
Koch, BAL	14	1639	61	47	9	Johnson, PH	35	1746	68	49	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Kern, TEN	33	1558	62	47	2	G. Chai, CHI	25	1270	50.8	61	4	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
L. Edwards, NYJ	42	1995	62	46	5	Dixon, NYG	47	2266	61	49	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
D. Colquitt, KC	21	974	67	46	4	M. Dickson, SEA	25	1632	65	49	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Sanchez, IND	27	1241	61	46	0	S. Martin, DET	27	1632	65	49	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Haack, MIA	40	1826	65	45	6	Palardy, CAR	28	1739	59	45	6	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
R. Allen, NE	29	1317	59	45	2	O'Donnell, CHI	27	1632	65	49	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Bojorquez, BUF	45	2028	60	45	1	Scott, GB	27	1632	65	49	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
B. Collett, CLE	29	2627	70	45	0	W. Hill, MIN	36	1618	70	44	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Huber, CIN	33	1464	63	44	4	Chris Jones, DAL	27	1618	70	44	3	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Punt returns					Punt returns					Punt returns					Punt returns										
No	Yds	Av	Long	TD	No	Yds	Av	Long	TD	No	Yds	Av	Long	TD	No	Yds	Av	Long	TD						
A. Roberts, NYJ	14	253	18.1	78	1	Natson, LA	14	208	14.9	60	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
J. Grant, MIA	11	233	21.2	11	1	Cohen, CHI	17	199	11.7	42	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
T. Hill, KC	12	175	14.6	91	1	D. Carter, PH	17	199	11.7	42	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
D. King, LAC	12	167	13.9	36	4	Sherets, MIN	13	102	7.8	20	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Dav. Harris, OAK	9	120	13.3	49	0	Kirk, ARI	13	102	7.8	20	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Switzer, PIT	13	149	11.5	23	0	Lockett, SEA	14	96	6.9	19	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Peppers, CLE	17	172	10.1	27	0	A. Humphreys, TAM	11	69	6.3	16	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Ervin, HOU	19	159	8.4	33	0	Austin, DAL	11	69	6.3	16	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Mickens, JAC	12	59	4.9	16	0	Hardy, ATL	9	43	4.8	14	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Kickoff returns					Kickoff returns					Kickoff returns					Kickoff returns										
No	Yds	Av	Long	TD	No	Yds	Av	Long	TD	No	Yds	Av	Long	TD	No	Yds	Av	Long	TD						
Jennings, TEN	9	330	36.7	94	1	D. Reed, SNF	9	320	35.6	98	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
J. Grant, MIA	14	452	32.2	102	1	M. Hall, ATL	9	320	35.6	98	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Peterson, NE	12	387	32.2	95	1	D. Reed, SNF	9	320	35.6	98	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Ericksen, CIN	13	373	28.7	51	0	Ta, Hill, NOR	9	320	35.6	98	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Ervin, HOU	10	253	25.3	36	0	Montgomery, GB	9	320	35.6	98	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
M. Murphy, BUF	13	324	24.9	49	0	Montgomery, GB	9	320	35.6	98	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
A. Roberts, NYJ	17	399	23.5	53	0	B. Williams, ARI	9	320	35.6	98	0	10	47	41	3	10	47	41	3						
Peppers, CLE	10	212	20.9	28	0	Touchdowns					Touchdowns					Touchdowns									
Switzer, PIT	16	319	19.9	35	0	Touchdowns					Touchdowns					Touchdowns					Touchdowns				
Pascal, IND	10	199	19.9	28	0	Touchdowns					Touchdowns					Touchdowns					Touchdowns				
Scoring					Scoring					Scoring					Scoring					Scoring					
Touchdowns					Touchdowns					Touchdowns					Touchdowns					Touchdowns					
T	Rush	Rk	Ret	Pts	T	Rush	Rk	Ret	Pts	T	Rush	Rk	Ret	Pts	T	Rush	Rk	Ret	Pts						
K. Hunt, KC	10	5	0	60	0	Guiley, LA	9	2	0	58	0	Guiley, LA	9	2	0	58	0	Guiley, LA	9	2	0	58			
T. Hill, KC	9	0	0	58	0	Kamaara, NOR	9	2	0	58	0	Barkey, NYG	9	2	0	58	0	Barkey, NYG	9	2	0	58			
M. Gordon, LAC	9	6	3	58	0	D. Adams, GB	9	2	0	58	0	D. Adams, GB	9	2	0	58	0	D. Adams, GB	9	2	0	58			
Conner, PIT	8	0	0	48	0	Dav. Johnson, ARI	9	2	0	58	0	Dav. Johnson, ARI	9	2	0	58	0	Dav. Johnson, ARI	9	2	0	58			
J. White, NE	8	2	6	48	0	Carroll, SEA	9	2	0	58	0	Carroll, SEA	9	2	0	58	0	Carroll, SEA	9	2	0	58			
B. Hiron, IND	6	1	0	48	0	Ridley, ATL	9	2	0	58	0	Ridley, ATL	9	2	0	58	0	Ridley, ATL	9	2	0	58			
A. Collins, BAL	6	5	1	36	0	Thielen, MIN	9	2	0	58	0	Thielen, MIN	9	2	0	58	0	Thielen, MIN	9	2	0	58			
Tennison, CLE	6	0	0	36	0	D. Jackson, TAM	9	2	0	58	0	D. Jackson, TAM	9	2	0	58	0	D. Jackson, TAM	9	2	0	58			
D. Hopkins, HOU	6	0	0	36	0	M. Jones, DET	9	2	0	58	0	M. Jones, DET	9	2	0	58	0	M. Jones, DET	9	2	0	58			
Kicking					Kicking					Kicking					Kicking					Kicking					
PAT	FG	LG	Pts	TD	PAT	FG	LG	Pts	TD	PAT	FG	LG	Pts	TD	PAT	FG	LG	Pts	TD						
Gotskowski, NE	26/26	27/29	50	0	0	Lutz, NOR	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Grosby, GB	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Grosby, GB	21/22	16/15	52	66			
Butker, KC	18/18	26/26	46	74	0	M. Crosby, GB	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Goff, SNF	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Goff, SNF	21/22	16/15	52	66			
Myers, NYG	18/19	18/19	55	72	0	Chubb, DAL	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Rossas, NYG	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Rossas, NYG	21/22	16/15	52	66			
St. Louis, STL	18/19	18/19	55	72	0	Higgins, WASH	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Prater, DET	18/18	13/10	59	57	0	Prater, DET	18/18	13/10	59	57			
Utah, IND	20/21	17/20	54	63	0	Parkey, CHI	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Parkey, CHI	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Parkey, CHI	21/22	16/15	52	66			
Tucker, BAL	20/21	13/15	55	59	0	Kel. Elliott, PH	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Kel. Elliott, PH	21/22	16/15	52	66	0	Kel. Elliott, PH	21/22	16/15	52	66			
McNabb, DEN	20/20	12/14	53	59	0	Cattanzaro, TAM	21/22	10/12	59	57	0	Cattanzaro, TAM	21/22	10/12	59	57	0	Cattanzaro, TAM	21/22	10/12	59	57			
Bullock, CIN	26/27	9/11	51	53	0	Team statistics					Team statistics					Team statistics									

NFL

# Undefeated Rams make splash at deadline

## LA gets DE Fowler; Broncos trade Thomas

By TERESA M. WALKER  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The NFL's lone undefeated team has just made an already dominant defensive front even deeper.

The Los Angeles Rams swapped a pair of draft picks for Jaguars pass rusher Dante Fowler on Tuesday, adding the third overall pick in 2015 to a defense already stocked with Aaron Donald, Ndamukong Suh, Michael Brockers and Mark Barron for the most surprising move at the NFL trade deadline.

Denver sent wide receiver Demaryius Thomas to Houston in a deal giving the Broncos some salary cap relief, and Philadelphia gave Carson Wentz another target picking up receiver Golden Tate from Detroit. Washington added safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, while Green Bay shipped Ty Montgomery to Baltimore two days after fumbling a kickoff late against the Rams.

The Rams gave up a third-round pick in 2019 and a fifth-round pick in 2020 for Fowler, who is a free agent at the end of this season. Fowler became expendable with Yannick Ngakoue's success, and the Jaguars already opted in 2010 not to pick up the fifth-year option on Fowler's rookie deal.

Fowler has two sacks in seven games while playing behind Ngakoue.

With the Broncos at 3-5, Denver general manager John Elway made a move to clear both some salary cap space and more playing time for some of his younger receivers. Thomas has a salary cap figure of \$15.53 million for 2019, the last year of his deal, while rookies Courtland Sutton and DaeSean Hamilton and second-year Tim Patrick are much cheaper.

The Texans (5-3) have won five straight to take the lead in the AFC South and had to replace Will Fuller who tore a knee ligament in a win over Miami last week. Hous-

ton sent a 2019 fourth-round pick to Denver with the teams swapping seventh-rounders in next year's draft.

Thomas is a nine-year veteran with 36 catches for 402 yards this season. Elway said the Texans beat out three or four other teams for the receiver.

"It's never easy when you trade a guy that's been a household name around here for a long time and done a lot of great things, not only on the football field but also in the community, and is a good man," Elway said.

"Plus, it's a good spot for Demaryius. He's going to a good football team that's in a pennant race. So, it'll be good for him, too."

The defending Super Bowl champions Eagles (4-4) trade their bye this week and could lose Tate after this season if he leaves in free agency.

"We're not going to sit on our hands," Eagles personnel boss Howie Roseman said. "It's hard to find really good players and this is a really good player. The message to our players, our coaches and our fans is that our foot is always going to be on the gas."

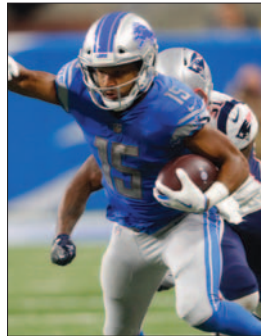
Tate, 30, has 44 catches for 517 yards and three touchdowns this season and joins an offense that already has Alshon Jeffery, Nelson Agholor and Jordan Matthews and tight ends Zach Ertz and Dallas Goedert. Tate can help the Eagles be less predictable with his ability to play in the slot.

He averaged 93 catches, 1,056 yards receiving and five TDs the past four seasons in Detroit after spending his first four with Seattle. If Tate leaves after the season, Philadelphia likely would receive a compensation pick.

Tate wrote on Twitter: "It's been real DETROIT! I'll love ya forever. Philly Philly let's get it!!" He then posted a GIF of



MARK LOMOGLIO/AP



PAUL SANCIA/AP

The slumping Jacksonville Jaguars traded defensive end Dante Fowler, left, to the undefeated Los Angeles Rams just before the NFL trading deadline Tuesday. The defending champion Philadelphia Eagles acquired wide receiver Golden Tate, right, from the Detroit Lions for a third-round draft pick next year.

fictional Philly icon Rocky Balboa jumping up and down on the steps of the Art Museum with the caption: "Mood."

The Packers made a couple of moves, trading away Ty Montgomery two days after his late fumble on a kickoff kept Green Bay and Aaron Rodgers from a late chance to hand the Rams their first loss this season. They sent the running back and kick returner to Baltimore.

They also sent safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix to Washington for a fourth-round draft pick in 2019 as the Redskins (5-2) boosted a stingy defense.

Now Washington can pair Clinton-Dix, who will be a free agent after this season, with D.J. Swearinger. Clinton-Dix, a first-round pick in 2014 out of Alabama, has

started 65 of his 71 games, and he has 14 interceptions, including three this season. Swearinger leads the NFL with four interceptions this season.

Clinton-Dix is just the latest former Alabama player on the Washington roster, joining recent first-round picks Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne along the defensive line, and second-round pick Ryan Anderson at linebacker.

The Ravens sent a seventh-round pick to Green Bay (3-3-1) for Montgomery, who had been told to take a touchback if the kickoff with about two minutes left in a 29-27 loss to the Rams went into the end zone. A third-round pick in 2015, Montgomery has 1,676 yards from scrimmage for his career.

## Bummer: Raiders' trades, 49ers' injuries changed teams' prospects

FROM BACK PAGE

the older players Gruen signed in the offseason failed to deliver.

An overtime win in Week 4 over Cleveland provided a brief respite but the Raiders have lost three straight since, getting outscored by 54 points during that span as the season is deteriorating quickly.

Adding to the drama were reports questioning Carr's toughness and leadership, public complaints from players about how they're being used and the loss of No. 1 receiver Amari Cooper to Dallas for a first-round pick.

Now a team that won 12 games just two years ago behind a young core of Carr, Cooper and Mack, has regressed back to where the franchise was in 2014 when the Raiders lost the first 10 games of Carr's career.

"I've been here before," Carr said. "I know how to get out of it and it's not by pointing fingers. It's not by getting with your buddy and talking trash. It's about getting together with your buddies and figuring things out, asking your teammates what can I do better, what should I do. That's



D. ROSS CAMERON/AP

When quarterback Derek Carr, left, leads the Raiders (1-6) against the 49ers (1-7) on Thursday night, the game has a legitimate argument of being the worst prime-time action in NFL history.

how we fix it. I believe that we have guys like that."

The Niners have lacked the drama of their neighbors but the results have been no better. San Francisco overcame a 1-10 start

last year under first-year coach Kyle Shanahan to win five straight to end the season after Garoppolo was inserted into the lineup following a midseason trade from New England.

Garoppolo was rewarded with a \$137.5 million contract in the offseason and the 49ers were considered an up-and-coming team worthy of five prime-time matchups.

The team was dealt a setback a week before the season when running back Jerick McKinnon, the team's top free-agent acquisition in the offseason, blew out his knee in practice.

Garoppolo then went down with a season-ending knee injury in Week 3 and the Niners haven't won since, taking a six-game losing streak into this week's contest.

"Yeah, we've been dealt a tough hand with some of the injuries we have and some of the things that we've been going through, but that doesn't mean we should be 1-7," Shanahan said. "Those games, we make a few different plays, and I'm talking one to three plays, still wouldn't feel great about our record but I'd feel better than I do now."

San Francisco blew late leads in losses to Green Bay and Arizona and also had a chance at a comeback against the Chargers thwarted by a late interception by



Oakland Raiders (1-6)  
at San Francisco 49ers (1-7)

AFN-Sports  
1:20 a.m. Friday CET  
9:20 a.m. Friday JKT

backup C.J. Beathard.

Perhaps the most concerning part is the regression by several young players who were expected to be foundation pieces with defensive tackle Solomon Thomas, linebacker Reuben Foster, cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon and safety Adrian Colbert all struggling with their play and health.

Now San Francisco is just trying to salvage any positives in the second half of the season.

"We're fighting. Unfortunately, we're not getting the results," cornerback Richard Sherman said. "These have been some of the toughest losses I've seen."



## SPORTS



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Police intervene in Westbrook,  
Beverly spat » **Page 26**



NFL

## BAY AREA BUMMER



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

## Raiders, 49ers limp into prime-time game that once looked promising

By **Josh Dubow**  
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Jon Gruden's return to the sideline in Oakland and the prospect of a full season of Jimmy Garoppolo in San Francisco put optimism at a peak in the Bay Area heading into this NFL season.

That feeling went far beyond the partisan backers of the Raiders and 49ers and extended to the league and television network bosses who decided to put the final Battle of the Bay before the Raiders leave town for Las Vegas in 2020 on Thursday night football.

That battle has quickly turned into a Bay Area Bummer.

The game between the Raiders (1-6) and the 49ers (1-7) this week could be the worst prime-time matchup in NFL history. There have been 784 prime-time games played in the NFL on Nov. 1 or later and the .133 combined winning

**‘I wish the game had two 8-1 or 7-1 teams playing in it.’**

Jon Gruden

Raiders coach on Thursday's Battle of the Bay game

percentage for Oakland and San Francisco is the worst of all of them, lowering the bar set Dec. 18, 2014, when Tennessee visited Jacksonville in a battle of 2-12 teams.

“I wish the game had two 8-1 or 7-1 teams playing in it,” Gruden said. “Hopefully, someday soon you’ll see a game like that, but this is still going to be fun for the fans and both teams.”

Fun is not the word either team would use to describe this season, which has seen both the Raiders and 49ers

blow three fourth-quarter leads, deal with several debilitating injuries, and pile up losses.

While few considered either team to be Super Bowl caliber heading into the year, there was hope both could compete for the playoffs. Now the only competition is to determine which team is worse and has the inside track at the No. 1 overall draft pick.

The Raiders' season turned sour before it even started with the decision to trade holdout star pass rusher Khalil Mack to Chicago just one week before the start of the regular season for a package of draft picks. A defense that came into the season with enough question marks if Mack did play has generated no pressure and offered little resistance to opposing offenses.

Oakland lost the first three games despite never trailing for a second of the first three quarters as quarterback Derek Carr struggled to adjust to Gruden's offense and

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First CFP rankings: Alabama, Clemson, LSU, Notre Dame » **Page 28**

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